

THE GATEWAY

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Student Counselling Services sees first staff increase in 15 years



SIWEI CHEN
News Writer

The University of Alberta is adding at least five staff members to its current group of student counsellors to help improve the mental health support system for students.

Donna Cave, director of the University Health Centre, said that the hope is to provide students the services they need for overall wellness.

“Our goal this year is to try and make this place a healthier place emotionally, medically — all the way around. The counselling is one piece of a very large and a very needed plan,” she said. “We were a M.A.S.H. unit. We were doing critical care in the field, but that’s a long way from wellness. We had probably the lowest if not the second-lowest student/counsellor ratio in the entire country.”

Previously, there has been eight to nine full-time employees in Student Counselling Services. This level of counsellor support translates to about one psychologist for every 4,500 students.

With the increase in staff, there will be between 14 and 15 full-time employees, bringing the ratio of psychologists to full-time students to one to 3,000. This is the first time that the U of A has seen an increase in counselling staff in 15 years.

Cave said that most students were able to get an initial consult, but due to the low ratios, students were not being served as effectively as they should’ve been.

“Almost everybody got an initial consult — a few didn’t during peak time. But there were times in the year that we turned a third of the students away that we could’ve helped. A third of people that they said could’ve benefited from counselling, they were unable to serve,” she said.

Cave added that most students who received follow-up visits were only seen three times, which isn’t enough visits to get them back to wellness.

“We’re getting people through the acute thing, but not able to provide that follow-up, get-back-to-wellness type of counselling that we need to do,” she said. “I see mental health disorders coming more and more to the front here on campus, anxiety in particular. There are some students for whom it’s a daily crushing burden and it seems to be getting worse and worse.”

The Students’ Union has had input on this decision through their role on the Health Centre Advisory Group.

“This is a good investment. Counselling is something that could definitely use improvement,” said Rory Tighe, Vice President (Student Life) for the SU.

In addition to the new psychologists hired, there will also be two new psychiatrists hired, representing a 25-per-cent increase in staff by September.

PLEASE SEE HEALTH ♦ PAGE 4

LONG TIME COMING The university will be adding more psychologists to staff to meet the soaring demand for counselling services on campus.

Edmontonians, students protest police actions at G20

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
Senior News Editor

Protesters marched through the streets of downtown Edmonton last week, calling for a public inquiry into the police actions during the Toronto G20 summit and declaring their “solidarity with the Toronto 900” who were detained.

About 150 people marched from city hall to the downtown Edmonton Police Service headquarters, with protesters waving at police cruisers parked across the street and chanting slogans such as “what did we get for a billion dollars? Police brutality and corporate power.” The crowd also heard from several local activists who were in Toronto during the G20 meeting.

Keely Kidner, a recent University of Alberta graduate who was in Toronto for the G20, helped organize the Edmonton protest in part because her friend Kevin Force was held by police.

“It’s really hit close to home, the fact that Kevin was taken and detained and held in those horrible conditions. I feel like we have a responsibility to do something,” she said.

Kidner said that they chose to assemble outside the EPS headquarters because 95 EPS officers were in Toronto during the G20 and she feels they need to be held accountable.

“Some of the Edmonton police force

was in Toronto, and we want them to know that what happened there is not okay. There needs to be a public inquiry,” she said.

Force, a fourth-year political science student at the U of A, was unable to attend the event. He was detained for a total of 27 hours in Toronto before being released without charges. Although Force did participate in a peaceful demonstration on the first day of protests, he was picked up by police a day later while on his way to visit his grandparents.

“[The police] started accusing me of being part of the Black Bloc because I had black pieces of clothing. Also, in my backpack I had a small multi-tool which I carry around a lot. They said that was a concealed weapon and used that as their reason to arrest me.”

After sitting in a police vehicle for three hours, Force was moved to a detention centre.

“I was thrown into a cell with 20 other people. The food was barely edible that they provided us [and] there wasn’t enough water. There was no sanitation, no privacy. The lights were on 24/7, there was no bedding of any type. We were forced to sleep on the floor. It was like being in some sort of third-world prison,” he said.

Kidner said that the way police treated Force and others is never warranted.

“I don’t care what you did — [the police action] is unacceptable. That’s



DAN MCKECHNIE

HEAR US ROAR Protesters assembled outside Edmonton Police headquarters.

Guantanamo Bay. That doesn’t happen in Canada.”

She added that civil liberties are something people may take for granted.

“As students, university is a place where we need to discuss issues that are controversial and if we don’t have that space, that ability and freedom to speak about these things and to protest when something is important to us, then that’s really sad,” she said.

Force said that the degradation of civil liberties is a “slippery slope,” and could affect anyone in the future. He also added that the Black Bloc tactics

— although unacceptable — do not justify the police brutality he witnessed at the G20.

“Vandalism and destruction of property is a crime. No one’s denying that. But what the police did is absolutely unacceptable and true violence. Police brutality, aggression, and violation of civil rights should be more of a concern than the vandalism.”

EPS spokesperson Lisa Sobchyshyn said they had no problems with the Edmonton protesters. She added that she hadn’t heard of any specific incidents involving Edmonton police officers who served at the G20.



Millions of hits

OK Go talks about staging their elaborate and popular internet music videos.

A&E, PAGE 9



Hitting the road

The Gateway seeks out Alberta’s large landmarks, from Donald’s oil lamp to Mundare’s giant sausage.

FEATURE, PAGES 12-13

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Unemployment for students up from last summer

SCOTT FENWICK
News Staff

Despite an improving economy, the unemployment rate for Alberta students has gone up by five per cent since last summer, leaving many students searching for work.

According to Statistics Canada, Alberta's unemployment rate for full-time students aged 15–24 rose to 19.1 per cent in May of this year, up from 14.1 per cent in May 2009.

Students' Union Vice President (External) Aden Murphy said that the reason behind the Alberta increase is a mystery.

"The economy is picking up in many respects," he said. "I would expect the [job] numbers to be on-par or better. I can't speculate much on why the numbers are worse because

the recession isn't particularly worse compared to last summer."

Adding to that mystery is the fact that the overall Canadian student unemployment rate actually decreased by 3.2 per cent, dropping to 15.1 per cent in May 2010 from 18.3 per cent in May 2009.

Christine Gertz, library and information specialist from U of A's career centre, CAPS, suggested that the increased rate could be attributed to unemployment in specific industries and suggested that recent hits to the accommodation and food services industry may be a factor.

"If one of our major industries was hit in a certain way, then that would bring our employment rate up higher because they're not hiring people within that industry."

Gertz added that students currently

unemployed shouldn't be discouraged just because of the numbers.

"Take this stuff with a grain of salt. It's useful, but really, everybody's so different [that] I don't know if they're represented in the general statistics," she said.

She stressed that students should keep sending resumes to employers.

"We heard anecdotally from some people that they [thought] the job prospects for summer were bad," she said.

"And so they didn't even really try. We don't want people to hear that number and think it's impossible because I don't think that it is."

Murphy singled-out recent graduates in education and health care in particular as having more trouble finding jobs, given recent issues surrounding provincial government funding.

"[With] public sector jobs, the government is cutting back or freezing employment," he said "That's really hard for recent graduates because they don't have the job experience to compete with the people that already have the jobs. There's essentially no openings."

For students who are returning to school, the lack of summer work could have an impact on them in the fall.

"A lack of jobs means more loans required to be taken out, which means higher financial stress for the coming September," Murphy said. "Hopefully it will pick up as summer goes along and as we get more statistics coming out. So far, it's still a rough summer for students trying to make money to pay for their education, unfortunately."

“ I’m really happy with myself... Uh, I mean I’m really happy with the U of A.

ADEN MURPHY
Vice President (External)

—on progress in advancing U of A initiatives in CASA, June 22

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Simon Yackulic and Aaron Yeo

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 20, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

Of the three meetings compiled in this Council Forum, the worst food was served June 22, where otherwise delicious burgers were inexplicably topped with beans. Certain Gateway editors were dismayed by this culinary decision. However, the July 6 meal, where attendees enjoyed vegetarian platters, pita bread, and cookies, provided redemption for the caterers. So if you're at all interested in student politics, swing by, fill your belly, and get your democracy on.

JUNE 8

PRESENTING THE ISSS

Dustin Chelen of the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society gave an introductory presentation outlining the organization's goals, structure, and method of operation. After signing their terms of probation in May, the ISSS aims to improve on the previous science student associations, basing themselves on four key pillars: service, community, advocacy, and transpar-

ency. The ISSS is the third Faculty of Science student group in the last two years.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Vice President (Student Life) Rory Tighe reported on the possibility of changing Lister Hall's current food plan from a declining balance system to an all-you-can-eat plan. He noted that further investigation on how a new system will function is still needed.

JUNE 22

PAYING OUR WAY

Vice President (External) Aden Murphy began the meeting by giving a presentation on the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), a federal post-secondary lobby group. He explained the history of the relationship between CASA and the U of A, noting that the SU helped found the student organization in 1995. The university then left in 2003, only to return in 2008.

The U of A is the largest full member school in CASA and pays \$46,446 a year to participate in the organization (not including travel and conference fees). CASA's total budget is about \$600,000. Small schools and large schools, however, have the same say, as CASA is set up as a one-school, one-vote system.

SPREADING THE WORD

President Nick Dehod updated council on some upcoming communication projects. Some things students should look for in the future: a revamped website, SU Newsletter, digital signage, and

increased street team support.

Later, Dehod elaborated that he hopes to increase the street team to include 50 members.

POLITICAL POLICIES REVAMPED

Bill 10 was approved in first reading. The bill allows the Council Administration Committee to appoint people not on the DIE Board to serve on the selection committees for the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers if "less than two members of the DIE Board are available to serve." Proponents of the bill argued it was necessary at this stage in order to keep on track with hiring a CRO in time to prepare for the fall.

A number of the SU political policies, which guide executives when advocating for students, had expired and council went forward with renewing them. First, a motion was passed that states that future political policies "shall expire within three years after the end of that session" when they were passed.

Council also approved a policy dealing with capital projects that are funded by student fees, stipulating that any project directly funded by students must also "have a governance structure that includes adequate student representation."

In addition, student fees created to fund such projects must be eliminated after the project has been fully funded.

Another political policy was passed outlining the SU's position on academic materials, which states they pursue affordable options for students.

In addition, a motion was passed which recommended raising the CRO's honourarium to \$7,500.

JULY 6

QUESTION PERIOD

Murphy fielded questions about how his new job as chair of CASA would affect his work as VP (External). Murphy noted that around 20 per cent of his time would be devoted to his CASA position and that he might have to cut back on speaking to students, but assured councillors that fulfilling his new position won't mean he can't get things done in his SU position.

POLITICAL POLICIES... AGAIN

A political policy on public transit was passed in the first reading, supporting LRT and BRT (bus rapid transit) along with smartcard technology and 'reliable, safe and timely service.'

In addition, council voted to ratify Zachary Dayler as the National Director of CASA.

“ I broke bylaw probably tons of times last year.

ZACH FENTIMAN
Vice President (Operations & Finance)

—on the outstanding expiration of many political policies, June 8

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Matt Hirji and Simon Yackulic



Michael Myc
Masters II



Komal Kuman
Science IV



Jessica Abdalla
Masters IV



Evan Urban
Future Golden
Bears Basketball
Star

Probably at seven in the morning, but just a Bailey's and coffee.

As soon as I woke up, hungover, when I was on vacation in Mexico.

Any time after noon is acceptable to me.

I woke up once at seven in the morning to have a pop because I needed the energy.

Plants use smart growth strategies to find nutrients: U of A researcher

AARON YEO
News Staff

A team of University of Alberta researchers have discovered that plants have an inherent ability to take in information about their environment and use it to generate smart growth strategies.

J.C. Cahill, an associate professor in the department of Biological Sciences, led a study looking at how plants react to different environments. His team conducted their trials on *abutilon theophrasti*, an agricultural weed commonly known as velvetleaf.

"We experimentally manipulated competitors and resources in a soil environment," said Cahill. "The idea is that natural selection should favour all organisms to forage efficiently."

What they found was that instead of just blindly stretching their roots out to get the most nutrients out of the earth, the plants indeed developed different strategies, depending on what was around them.

The plants take into consideration both risks and rewards — if the nutrients are greater in one area of the soil than another, they will extend their roots in that direction. But if other plants are feeding there and the rewards are low, it will weigh the benefits and the stakes, and conclude that perhaps it's not worth it.

Cahill likened the methods plants use to search for nutrients to university students at a party, because humans often evaluate situations to figure out the most efficient way to achieve a certain goal.

"You don't wait in line where the keg is empty; you go where the keg is full," Cahill said. "It just doesn't make sense to spend time where the resources aren't."

In the world of flora, competitors aren't thirsty undergraduates, but other plants whose roots are reaching for the same resource. Continuing the analogy, Cahill explained that there are other factors taken into consideration as well, such as how many people are in that line.

"You'll move to a line that has fewer people — but you'll wait in a long line



AARON YEO

BACK TO THEIR ROOTS J.C. Cahill found that plants seek out nutritional soil.

if the resource is really good," he said.

However, there is of course a major difference between plants and humans, as Cahill noted.

"We have visual and auditory cues which help us understand what's going on in the environment around us; plants obviously don't."

Instead, plants are well-adapted to detect chemical cues in the soil around them. They can detect important nitrogen levels as well as chemicals emitted by other plants in the area, with a decent sense of directionality.

Cahill and his team know that plant life can pick up details about competitors and resources, in addition

to seeing the results of different root pattern. However, they're still unsure about the process.

"Plants don't have a brain, they don't have a nervous system," Cahill said. "So how are they able to integrate this information? What exactly is the mechanism?"

He hopes they can find that mechanism through one of the many experiments they are currently undertaking to further this research. Cahill and his colleagues have already published papers on the foraging aspect, with another piece on information integration recently released in the journal *Science*.

Edmonton and Alberta, and has been recognized for his outstanding work and advocacy in the province.

THREE TIMES THE HONOUR

University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera received an honorary degree this month from the University of Waterloo in Ontario. The Doctor of Engineering degree was awarded on June 19 to recognize her work in promoting research and education, in addition to her contributions to the field of metallurgical engineering.

Samarasekera has also been recognized with honorary degrees from the UBC and Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland.

FIRST-EVER REHAB MED CHAIR

A research chair is being created at the U of A to honour physical therapist David Magee. The chair — a first for the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine — was made possible by a \$1.5 million donation from a long-time patient of Magee.

Magee is an associate dean in the Department of Physical Therapy and is a celebrated researcher on musculoskeletal rehabilitation. He has served as the sports therapist for the Edmonton Oilers, the Edmonton Eskimos, and Canada's synchronized swimming team.

WE'RE NUMBER SIX

The U of A has reached sixth place this year on a list of the world's top international institutions — excluding the US — for academics to work in the life sciences field. The list, compiled by *The Scientist*, featured 10 universities and considered factors like the number of full-time researchers at the institution, the amount of federal funding received, and the number of papers published.

Dalhousie University in Halifax was the only other Canadian university on the list, ranking tenth. The top spot was taken by the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

SHOW US THE MONEY

The Alberta government has announced a new scholarship to honour the life of Gary McPherson, who passed away last month. The scholarship awards students up to \$2,000 and will be granted to as many as 100 postsecondary students per year. Students must exhibit leadership skills or a commitment to bettering the lives of Albertans to be eligible.

McPherson served in a number of executive, advisory, and professorial roles at the U of A, as well as serving on the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. He is a member of the sports halls of fame for

campus digest

Compiled by Dan Watson

MURPHY ELECTED CASA CHAIR

Students' Union Vice President (External) Aden Murphy was elected chair of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, an organization with the mandate to address the concerns of post-secondary students at the national level.

Murphy was selected Wednesday, June 24 by a vote of CASA's regional directors. As chair, he will be responsible for serving as a link between the full-time office staff and the elected board of directors for the organization.

Murphy explained he was concerned that some of Canada's larger universities withdrew from full membership in CASA last year. He hopes to use his position to reverse the trend.

"That was kind of rough, and one of the biggest things I want to work for this year is to make sure all the schools who were on the fence, and had doubts throughout the past year, are reassured," Murphy said.

STUDENTS' UNION QUIPS



"WE CAN'T DO THAT WITH THE GATEWAY. THEY REALLY MESS WITH OUR DEMOCRACY!"

- STEVEN DOLLANSKY,
STUDENTS' COUNCIL SPEAKER

General Volunteer Meeting

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GATEWAY NEWS

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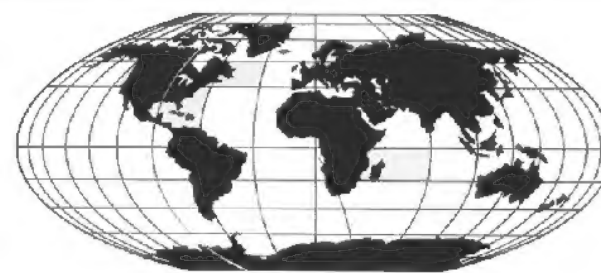
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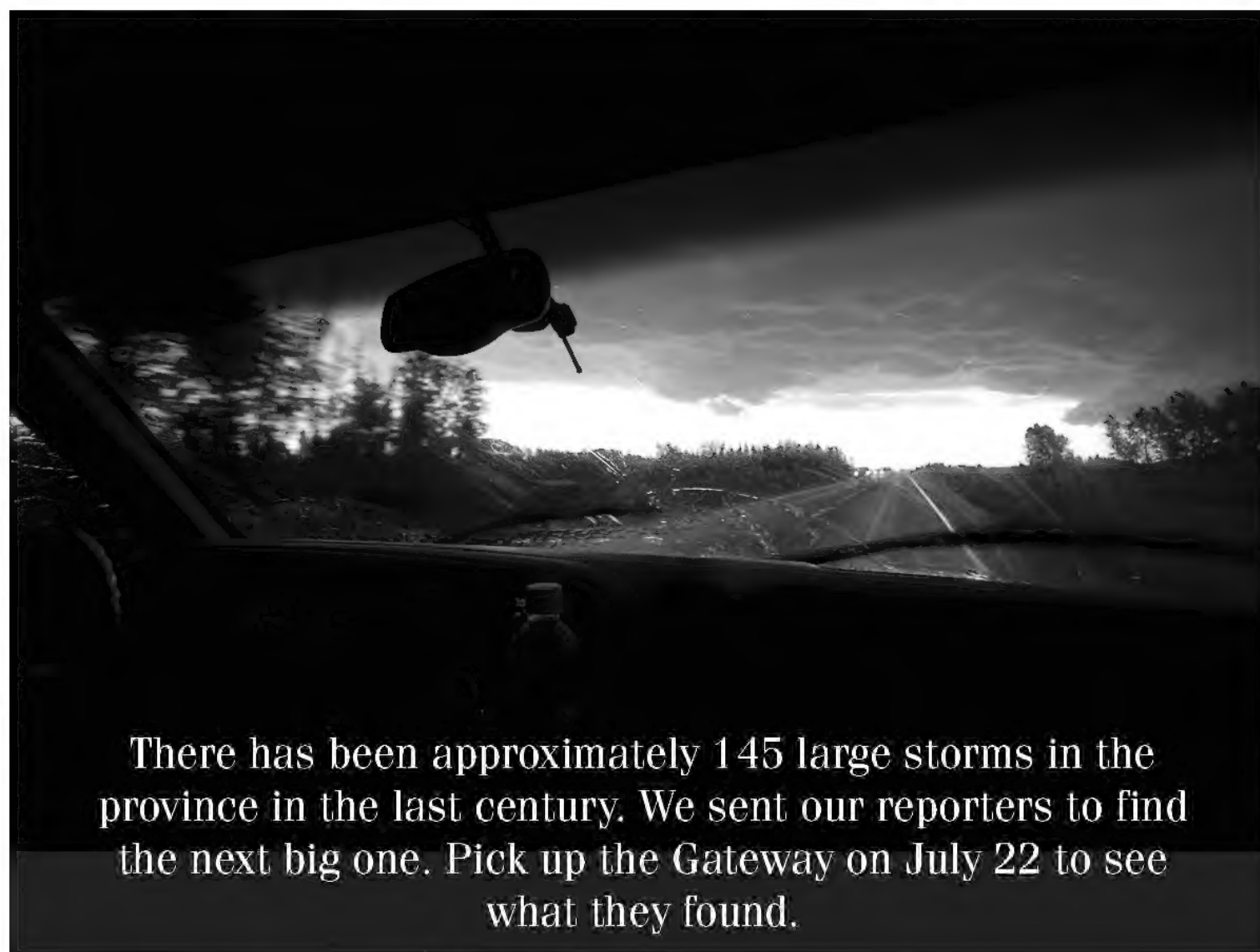


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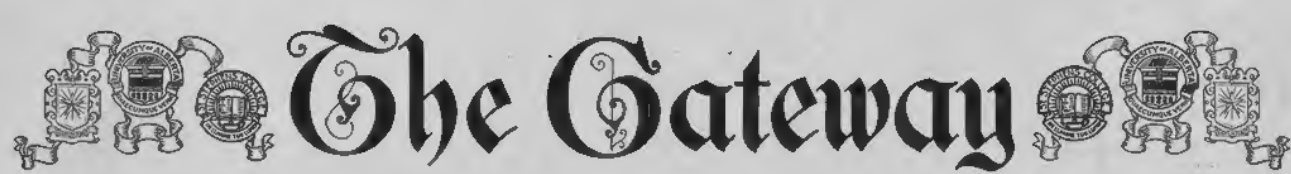
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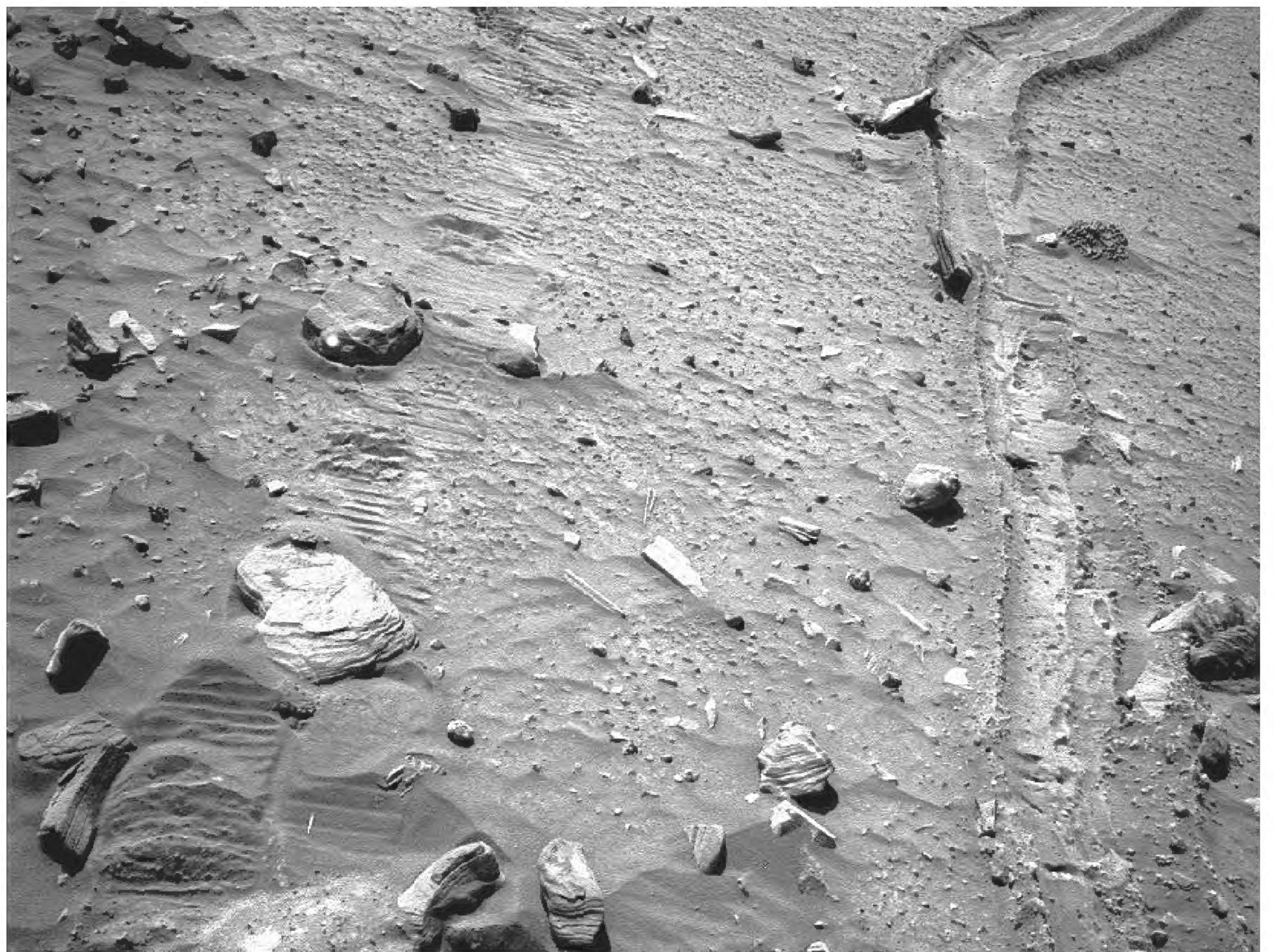
**THE GATEWAY HISTORY PROJECT
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

If you would like to contribute to or become a part of the Gateway's celebration of 100 years at the University of Alberta, please contact Gateway Alumni Association President Jonn Kmech at alumni@gateway.ualberta.ca

The Gateway celebrates its official centennial anniversary on November 20, 2010 at the Chateau Lacombe in Downtown Edmonton. Watch for more information in future issues of the Gateway, or contact the GAA.



A part of our heritage since 1910



Students design drill for Mars

Mechanical engineering students win first in national competition

NATHANIEL BRENNEIS
News Writer

A University of Alberta team of mechanical engineering students has developed a winning design for a machine that could prove indispensable for possible future missions on Mars.

The team's design for a robotic drill for taking core samples won first place at the National Student Design Competition in Victoria on June 9, a competition run by the Canadian Space Agency.

The winning team's design answered a call to develop a light-weight and efficient core-sampling tool that could effectively dig to an appropriate depth but also fit on a spacecraft lander.

Team member Jessica Patzer said that the extra layer of difficulty posed by the weight and space restrictions is what drew the team to the project.

"Many of the things engineers take for granted in many terrestrial designs

— gravitational constants, atmospheric pressure — are not accessible or present in a Martian environment and thus are the biggest challenges in designing a tool that could potentially operate in space," she said.

Team advisor Michael Lipsett, a professor in mechanical engineering, explained that the drill could provide a new means to discovering evidence of life on the red planet.

"Because Mars has such a thin atmosphere, there's a lot of cosmic radiation that bombards the surface and that means that any obvious evidence of life within a metre of the surface is going to be degraded," he said. "That's why the need to sample fairly deep is so important."

Additionally, since it takes a spacecraft about six months to get to Mars, space agencies believe a manned mission will require the crew to spend time on the planet.

Lipsett said that by providing an idea of the nature of the planet's soil and what Martian resources could actually

be used by future missions, this drilling unit would be an essential tool for the safety of any human visitors.

This possible necessity is far from science fiction. Earlier this spring, US President Barack Obama refocused NASA's space exploration plans. New rover missions to Mars are planned for 2018 to prepare the way for a long-anticipated manned mission sometime after 2030.

"Designing anything for space is an extremely long process and my group's role was really the first stage of many to come before this project is ready for a bid for NASA's 2018 mission," said Patzer. "One of the best payoffs was the satisfaction that we delivered on this objective — we are confident that our design is a solid first step."

In addition to Patzer, the team consists of Stephen Dwyer, Nicolas Olmedo, and Jamie Yuen. The design competition attracts teams from across the country, with nine teams in the 2010 finals.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

COKE ADDICTION

Over the past two weeks, nearly every Coca-Cola machine and vending machine on campus has been broken into repeatedly. Access is gained by either prying the machine open or drilling through the lock.

The majority of the thefts are taking place during the day. Campus security is asking anyone who observes suspicious activity around the vending areas to immediately call them at 780-492-5050.

LOVER'S QUARREL

On the evening of July 2, bike unit officers observed a couple having an argument on 114 Street. The argument was causing a distraction to drivers and disrupting traffic in the area.

The couple was stopped and discovered to be intoxicated and unaffiliated with the university. The female had an outstanding provincial warrant and was arrested before being turned over to EPS and both were issued trespass notices.

STICK-UP MEN STUCK

On the evening of July 3, a resident of Michener Park called to report that he had two youth in custody who had previously been seen committing thefts in the area. CSS and the Edmonton police attended and determined that the two boys, who were currently missing from a group home, were the subject of numerous theft complaints earlier in the week. The Edmonton police took custody of the boys and returned them to the group home.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT

Just after 1 p.m. on July 5, a University staff member reported a male was stealing cans from a recycling bin in the Rutherford Library Pedway. Officers attended and identified the male, who was not affiliated with the University. The man was issued a trespass notice and sent off campus via LRT.

SMOKIN' IN THE BOYS ROOM

Around 9:30 p.m. on July 5, CSS officers located two non-affiliated males smoking marijuana in the HUB Mall wash-room. The pair were known to CSS and had been previously trespassed from campus. Both were issued provincial summonses for trespassing and escorted off campus.

Better student services a goal for Robinson

HEALTH ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Further development of the counselling program is also pending, and some expansions include moving into residences and providing more hours of service.

Dean of Students Frank Robinson said he made it a priority to increase counselling staff. The new hires will require \$180,000 total, and Robinson said this money was found through efficiencies.

"This is not affected by any layoffs or new money. Basically what we did is we had an external review of the health centre last year. That external review identified several places for increased efficiencies in the health centre," he said.

Robinson added that providing students with better services is his goal.

"We're now able to take some of that money into mental health," he said. "This is part of an ongoing review of all of our services. We want to find out where the pressure points are."

The Queen's a relic best left in the past

THE QUEEN, WHO JUST SPENT NINE DAYS visiting Canada, symbolizes everything wrong with our country's reliance on tradition. Not only does she exemplify an outdated, exclusionary, and aristocratic class-based system that has no place in a modern democracy, but the retention of the monarchy in modern Canada symbolizes an inability to make reasonable changes for fear of upsetting the status quo and offending people.

Like a number of other countries within the British Commonwealth, our head of state is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who rules through her representative in Canada, the Governor General. On paper, Canada is not an independent country — even after a bill is passed by the House of Commons and the Senate, a bill doesn't become law until approved by the queen's lackey. Canadians have already started to become aware of the problems associated with the Governor General. During the recent prorogation episode, an unelected and unaccountable official was given the authority of deciding whether or not to grant the government's request to prorogue parliament. Whether you agreed with Stephen Harper's move or not, it's hard to see how the Governor General — appointed by the Prime Minister, who leads a political party — is in any way qualified to be a nonpartisan, representative leader of Canada. The unelected Senate is already one useless rubber stamp too many for our democracy; keeping the Queen and Governor General around just adds unnecessary baggage.

But looking past the many deficiencies of the Canadian system, the reason we don't often discuss the Queen is that she's hardly ever in the country — she's a ruler we share with several other states. Supposedly we keep her around as a tie to both Britain and other Commonwealth territories such as Mozambique and Samoa.

As much as I'm sure that the Commonwealth has created a deep, intense affection between Canadians and Samoans, I don't really buy the monarchist argument that the crown — a hereditary heirloom that symbolizes oppression and privilege — is all that we have to tie us to Britain. If there's something more, such as shared history and traditions that bonds us to Britain, that connection won't suddenly cease to exist. The US and Britain have a "special relationship," at least historically, but the Queen doesn't have a direct say in American domestic policy.

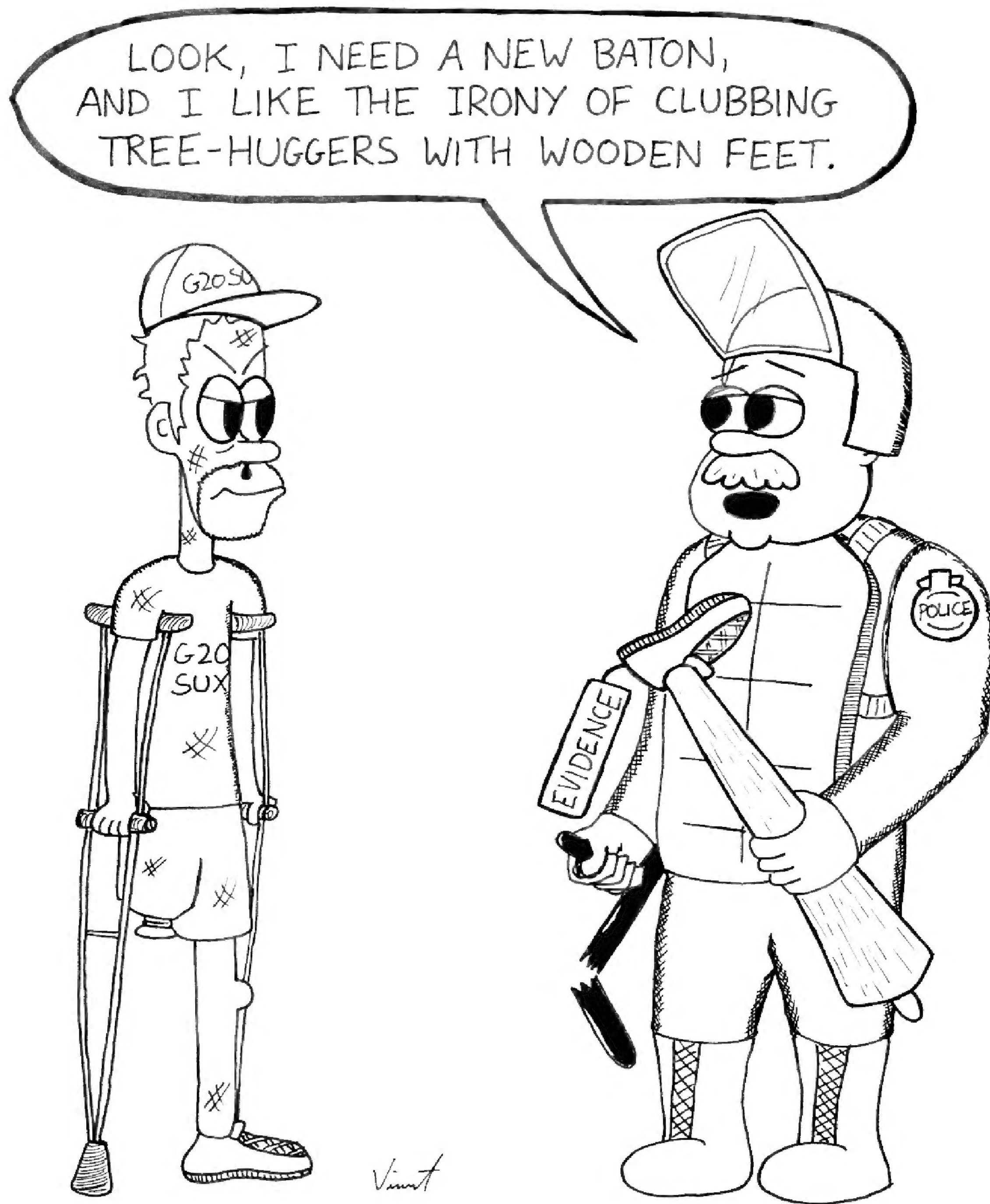
Furthermore, this illogical bond between our countries isn't just needless; it's detrimental to Canadians. In recent years, the Canadian government has passed a number of apology resolutions to victims of earlier, more imperialistic government policies; we've apologized to the First Nations for residential schools, and to Chinese Canadians for the Chinese immigration head tax. These apologies are meaningless when we still spend money to celebrate the trips of the last great symbolic vestige of imperialism: a monarch.

While it's true that visits by the Queen don't cause the same sort of chaos as the G20 summit did last month. But, like the G20, they have very little real benefit to the country and come with a hefty price tag; the Queen's visit is estimated to have cost Canadian taxpayers more than \$9 million. The summits gave world leaders the chance to have some face-to-face time as anarchists smashed up downtown Toronto, while the Queen's visit allows random monarchists to use taxpayer money to bring her over here and stare at her as she waltzes around Canada. Nepotism, patronage based on kinship, is generally seen as a bad thing. Although the Queen hasn't done anything for Canada besides gracing us with her presence occasionally, royal worship is apparently an exception.

Keeping the British royal family connected to our government is one of the things that separates us from the United States and makes us unique.

Unfortunately, having an unelected hereditary monarchy also symbolizes Canadians' illogical attachment to outdated and unnecessary institutions simply because they are there, and because it would ruffle a few feathers to change it. But change we should — we function fine without royalty, and we could function fine without a symbol of the past aristocracy.

SIMON YACKULIC
Deputy News Editor



ROSS VINCENT

from THE web

A new definition of socialism

RE: (Katz arena plan a public menace, Cody Civiero, June 3)

The only thing shameful is this article. What a smear job by a maroon. Why is it that a student with zero life experience feels so strongly about his opinion?

Get a life, Cody. Your silly socialist opinions are 40 years behind the times. Come back once you've had a little experience ... say, in 20 years?

"JOHN Q PUBLIC"
Via Internet

Facebook not above law

RE: (Facebook privacy is just common sense, Bruce Cinnamon, June 3)

Facebook can dictate terms, but only as long as those terms do not violate the law, which several of Facebook's policies have in the past done.

"MARK"
Via Internet

Sports Editor should mind his own section

RE: (Album review: Crystal Castles — Crystal Castles (II), Matt Hirji, June 3)

This is a terrible review. Why is the Sports Editor even writing a review on a Toronto-based band? Stick to your niche where I'm sure your shit comes across a lot better. You clearly know nothing about this band. Fuck off.

"NICK"
Via Internet

Historians not necessarily a scholarly bunch

RE: (History Machine: I'm a history major ... now what?, Christine Clark, June 13)

History is certainly about more than memorizing facts and dates; indeed it is about the interpretation and analysis of those "facts," the construction of a seamless narrative from inchoate data.

On that account, I disagree with your contention that history must be taught by other historians. Perhaps it is useful to hear many perspectives, but one must eventually break out into one's own. Winston Churchill, for instance, was rather untrained in history, yet a marvelous historian in his own right. Shelby Foote, another unschooled fellow, wrote a splendid account of the American Civil War.

"CORNELIUS"
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or emailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

What's in a name?

So that place in SUB has been named at last. L'Express, they've called it. Let's see ... that's "le," French for "the" and "Express," French for "Express" ... I get it ... The Express. As in Orient Express or as in fast food express, I wonder?

But why, I wonder too, are we talking French? Nothing against the French, of course (I have a French name myself), but what is there that's French about that place? Those salads, perhaps? Mais non, mais non, mais non. A Frenchman would suffer une petit crise de foie* at the sight of those unlikely marriages of flavour and texture, the inventions of a truly North American mind. Are the sandwiches gallic? Gold beef on a bun, pastrami on rye? You've got to be kidding. What about the cakes? The sinfully delicious tortes are German in name, East European in style, and are created by a Czechoslovakian (may her shadow never grow less).

In fact, some of the food is European, but it is an ethnic insult to call it French. You might as well describe a US citizen as a Canadian — we live on the same continent, don't we?

Why has a French name been

chosen for a place that doesn't serve French food?

Humbug, I say!

*The French speakers on the name-choosing committee will have no trouble recognizing this as "a bilious attack."

ANNE LE ROUGETEL
November 8, 1979

Lefties strike back

That's it. We're pissed off.

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Better?

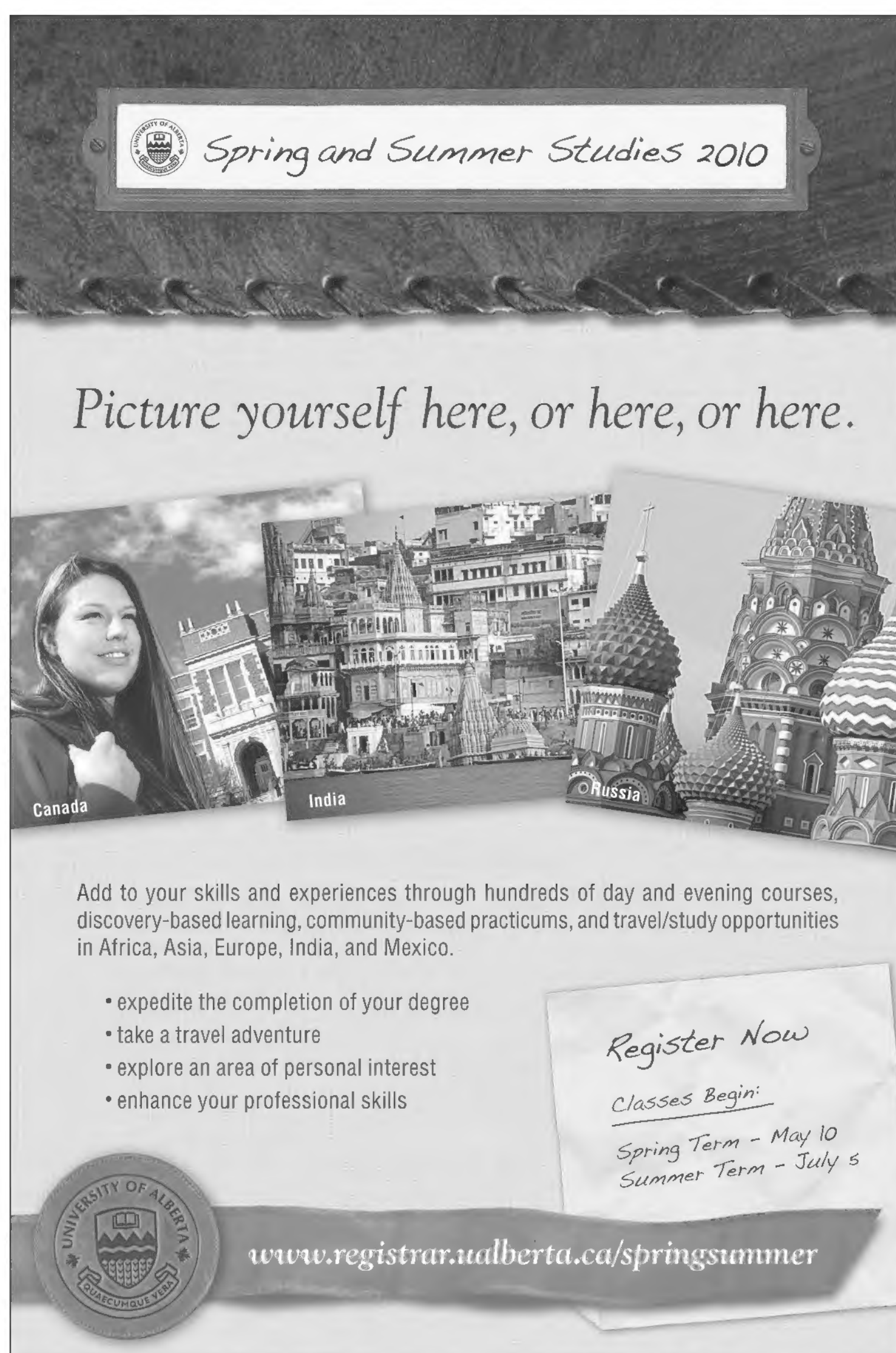
Stronger ... Faster ... and Leftier.

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"THE LEFT STUFF"
January 17, 1984

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance — or are just really hilarious.

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Blood Services' ban is just bad policy



JANNA DENG

But recently outdated discrimination continues to pervade our health administration system, and this is no more apparent than with policies on blood donation in men who have sex with men (MSM). In 2002, Canadian Blood Services sued Kyle Freeman for having lied on the blood donor questionnaire to avoid the ban that prevents MSMs from donating blood; Freeman countersued, claiming the ban is discriminatory and violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Canadian court's decision is expected sometime in the near future.

The Canadian policy has been in effect since 1983 and is intended to curb the spread of HIV infections contracted from blood transfusions. Canadian Blood Services refuses to accept a donation from any male who has had sex with another male before 1977. In early June, a U.S. committee reached the decision to keep a similar ban in place.

The reason given for the ban is that all MSMs are high risk of having the virus, regardless of lifestyle and frequent STD testing, and that in order to eliminate all chance of HIV infection, all MSMs must be prohibited from donating blood. While demographically MSMs represent roughly half of the people infected with HIV in Canada, we should not be discriminating based on sexual orientation, but instead on the high-risk behaviour of individuals.

Canadian Blood Services allows individuals who have paid for sex, or who have used cocaine, to donate blood after a 12-month wait. Straight men and women who have had a sexual encounter with someone of the opposite sex whose sexual history they're unsure of are allowed to donate after a mere six-month wait.

These strict AIDS prevention policies will allow a seasoned crack addict who has had unprotected sex to donate their blood after a year of being clean. An adventurous university student can donate six months after a grueling 17-person orgy, provided they're moderately sure none of the men involved had sex with each other. Yet MSMs who practice safe sex and get tested for HIV regularly, or who are in long-term monogamous relationships, are forbidden from ever donating blood. Even those with no risk of contracting any diseases are exempt from donating.

Despite Canada's preoccupation with keeping high-risk individuals from donating, MSMs are the only demographic systematically eliminated based on a negative stereotype, rather than actual behaviour or unsafe medical practices. With such policies in place, it's not surprising that gay men deal with the implication they live a deviant, disease-ridden lifestyle of sexual meetings with strangers.

As a recent article in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* indicates, the progression of technology in this decade makes a false negative HIV test virtually impossible. HIV testing has come a long way since the '80s; while previous practices required the virus to be present in the body for at least six months before detection, it's now possible to detect the virus after as little as two weeks. Combined with

the frequency of testing for STDs many men in the queer community receive on a regular basis, and a suitable waiting period after unsafe encounters, it only makes sense for a new policy to be implemented that allows MSMs to donate with the same restrictions as heterosexuals. Risk of HIV infections among straight people is just as high as for MSMs. The spread of sexually transmitted diseases is highest among young, sexually-active heterosexuals who lack information about proper use of protection and STI prevention. In that case, if the issue is preventing HIV infection risk, blood donation restrictions on heterosexuals should be equal to those of the MSM population.

Canada could learn something from other countries with more tolerant policies. Australia, Japan, and Sweden have a one-year deferral period for MSMs with multiple partners, similar to Canada's policies for straight men and women who exhibit behaviour with a great risk of contracting HIV. MSM men in monogamous relationships, or who haven't recently been sexually active, deserve to be included in the low-risk category for HIV.

Ron Vezina, the director of media relations at Canadian Blood Services, has stated that he sees no reason to allow donations from "high risk" men, since there hasn't been a recent blood shortage in Canada. But the issue of preventing MSMs from donating blood isn't a gimmick to prevent a surplus of blood donations. It's an obsolete, unfair policy that needs to be eliminated. Advances in medical science have essentially eliminated the risk of HIV contaminating the blood supply and common human decency shouldn't allow such regulations to remain in existence.

Views on tattoos should be modified



ALIX KEMP

It's that time of year. School is out, the lilacs have bloomed — then were subsequently pelted by summer hailstorms — and I have no idea how I'm going to pay next month's rent. This year, I told myself I was going to start looking for a summer job as early as possible. However, with only two months left until the beginning of the new school year, I have \$50 in the bank, a cupboard stocked with a meager supply of ramen noodles, and a hungry cat.

Job hunting has become something of a daunting task; it no longer means just getting my hair cut, polishing up my resumé, and firing off a few cover letters. It also means a few trips to the mall despite my ever-dwindling bank account, because my old supply of professional clothing is lacking a few things — mainly, long sleeves. Despite my wealth of retail experience, and my willingness to do just about anything to keep my fridge stocked with beer and leftover pizza, many employers have refused to look past the sleeve I already have: an elaborate tangle of inked lines that covers the length of my right arm.

At a job interview last year, I covered my tattoos, but forgot to remove the small silver ring I often wear in my lip. Although I'd been wearing jewelry when I'd dropped off my resumé with the store's owner, on the day of

the interview my potential employer met me at the counter with a frown.

"I didn't realize you had a lip piercing," she said. She proceeded to sit me down and give me an extended lecture on how she would have hired me, but the piercing in my lip was so disgusting to her that she could not stand to look at me — a point she punctuated by staring at the floor for the entire 15 minutes. According to her, piercings and tattoos are unprofessional and make people uncomfortable.

The simple truth is that my piercings and tattoos don't detract from my ability to do my job.

I've never understood the unprofessional argument. As an employee, I'm prompt, always dressed neatly, good with customers, and make a point of being knowledgeable about the area in which I'm working. I do understand complaints about offensive language and graphic violence in visible tattoos — however, my sleeve features familiar figures from children's literature and classic novels, and doesn't impact my professionalism in any way. The simple truth is that my piercings and tattoos don't detract from my ability to do my job.

As for the claim that piercings and tattoos make people uncomfortable, my only reply is, "get over it." Some people are uncomfortable around elderly people, while many others feel awkward around wheelchair users, or people with visible scars.

In these circumstances, however, no employer would dream of saying, "I can't hire you, since you might make some customers uncomfortable," because that would be illegal. While the voluntary nature of body modification means that it's perfectly legal grounds for discrimination, it doesn't make the claim any less ridiculous. Nearly every time I take the bus, there's at least one person just as visibly modified than I am. And it's not just the under-30 crowd; one of my aunts got her navel pierced for her 50th birthday. It's a lot of people to be uncomfortable around.

I've generally found that my tattoos and piercings are actually helpful when I'm dealing with the public; they function as a fantastic icebreaker in conversations with strangers. People always want to examine the markings on my arm, and I typically get a bright, excited smile when someone recognizes the children's book characters that make up a large part of my sleeve. I even had a girl stop me on the street once because she liked my facial piercings so much that she wanted to give me a hug. Yes, I obviously make people very uncomfortable.

In some cases, modified people can have an advantage in the customer service department — other people with modifications can approach visibly tattooed employees with the assurance that they will be treated with the respect that my potential employer never granted me. Employers who discriminate against people with visible body modification should examine their own level of professionalism instead of criticizing the personal choices of their potential employees.

GATEWAY ONLINE

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G20's smoke obscures real issues

Neither protesters nor politicians achieved much at Toronto's summit



EVAN
DAUM

Let's get one thing straight — there was nothing earth-shattering about what happened in Toronto a little more than 10 days ago. Canada's busiest city didn't burn to the ground and chaos didn't reign supreme, but that doesn't mean Toronto's G20 summit should be overlooked as another blip on the anarchist radar screen.

Scenes of Toronto police cars blazing in the streets of Canada's most hectic downtown core will be the lasting images in the collective minds of all of us who witnessed the events of the G20 summit unfold on television.

Without a doubt these fiery moments, along with the destruction of businesses, clashes between protesters and the police, and alleged abuses of journalists and civilians will live in Canadians' collective memories for some time. These memories, however, will not be this G20's greatest legacy. That honour goes to the continuing trend of G20 summits producing little more than flimsy political promises oozing with rhetoric and light on substance.

The riots, arrests, and general appearance of chaos have been a reality at previous summits, and Toronto's experience was no different. There is nothing genuinely unbelievable about the fact that a small group of protesters and police clashed. It made for dramatic scenes on the evening

news, and I will admit that I too was glued to my television set as Peter Mansbridge told the nation about the Black Bloc protests that Torontonians won't soon forget. But in reality, those protests simply masked the real disaster at the summit.

There's no question that the violence and clashes between the police and protesters were very real and very dangerous. But it's time that radical protesters like the ones in Toronto that lit those Ford bonfires realized that while their antics got international media coverage, they are as much a problem with the G20 summit and what it continues to stand for as the suits they protested against.

The real issues, ones that should've dominated public discussion at a time when the most powerful leaders in the world met, ended up as little more than footnotes on the media landscape.

I'm still trying to figure out what shifting attention from real issues onto rather elementary forms of protest like smashing a window accomplished for the protesters, or how it furthered their cause in any way. If anyone saw a genuine cause being forwarded by Black Bloc protesters, please enlighten me. But from my comfy vantage point, I saw nothing

more than misguided destruction.

Peaceful protesting is a fundamental right of democracy, and that is in many ways the greatest thing about the G20 — people get an opportunity to voice their displeasure with the status quo on a major stage.

Whatever their grievance — whether it be with developed nations' stances regarding the environment, human rights, maternal health, or some other issue — I'll be the first to applaud those that flocked to Toronto to make sure their voices were heard.

Unfortunately, no one will remember those legitimate protests, thanks to a small number of thugs who took it upon themselves to give the G20 leaders the greatest gift of all: making front page headlines, though for the wrong reasons.

The real issues, ones that should've dominated public discussion at a time when the most powerful leaders in the world met, ended up as little more than footnotes on the media landscape. That isn't the fault of journalists, however — it was simply the reality of the situation. After all, the big wigs that squatted in downtown Toronto didn't do much to warrant coverage.

While the metal fences have since come down, and Toronto has returned to a state of normalcy, the fallout from the summit continues. The review of police tactics used is just the latest part of the G20 hangover.

While the aftermath will continue, one part of the summit's legacy has already been cemented; like its predecessors, Toronto's G20 was once again a forum of political inaction, masked by the violence of a group of misguided delinquents.

Wildrose Alliance has an identity crisis



JUSTIN
BELL

"People didn't know exactly who they were, but they saw a right-of-centre party that hadn't been in office for nearly four decades and flocked to them. But now voters — as well as members of the party — are asking 'what is this bandwagon that we've jumped on?' The short answer: more of the same."

The Wildrose Alliance, that right-wing alternative party in Alberta that everyone's been clamouring about, has decided to move towards the political centre, surprising no one except Wildrose leader Danielle Smith.

But where they move to and how they define themselves will determine what the future holds for the nascent political party.

From the outset, they were flapping in the political wind, staking out positions to the right of the Tories in an attempt to steal disenfranchised Conservative supporters. It proved to be a deft move, as the political climate in Alberta has left many conservatives questioning their traditional support for Ed Stelmach and his gang of Progressive Conservatives.

But as their support has skyrocketed in the past year, they've often seemed uncertain what exactly to do with it.

Polls this year put the Wildrose party ahead of both the provincial Liberals and Conservatives, capturing 42 per cent of support in an Angus Reid poll from February. Now, with the addition of a fourth Wildrose MLA and polling support pushing them into majority territory, the party has taken a swift turn towards

the centre of the political spectrum, where they are less dangerous, but also less likely to pick up seats in any upcoming election.

As a new party, they gained support by the simple fact of who they weren't; they weren't the Tories. People didn't know exactly who they were, but they saw a right-of-centre party that hadn't been in office for nearly four decades and flocked to them. But now voters — as well as members of the party — are asking "what is this bandwagon that we've jumped on?" The short answer: more of the same.

While the Wildrose Alliance's views may differ slightly at the moment from that of the ruling Tories, it's only a matter of time before that gap starts to narrow, as they try to gain legitimacy by shedding their small-party ideologies.

The party followed the script perfectly, ejecting a number of "controversial" policies at a convention at the end of June. They rejected a proposal arguing that firearm ownership is a form of property rights, and abandoned the idea of more nuclear power in the province.

It's part of what party leader Smith said is a move towards "big-tent policies," which in regular human speak

means "we want to actually get elected and realize that wandering on the fringes of the political wilderness won't help." They've tasted power and they want to make sure no one turns off the spigot. Four MLAs in the Legislature means they are now the third largest party and gain official status, something even the New Democrats lack.

But in the end, what does this all mean for Albertans? Unfortunately, not much. We will now have two parties on the right fighting for our attention, while the left remains splintered.

In the short term, as the Wildrose continues to gain support and move to the right, they could pull more and more votes away from the Tories. But in the long term, things become more complicated; how will this new movement towards the centre affect Alberta politics?

It could mean the disintegration of the Wildrose Alliance as voters realize they are just getting more of the same. Or it could just as easily mean a complete reworking of the political map, as the Tories and the Wildrose split the vote, which would be a boon for the Liberals and NDP. Who would come out on top in that battle is murkier than an Alberta slough in October.



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THURS
JULY 8

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TRAMPS LIKE US is a collection of polaroids by seven Edmonton photographers: Erika Atkey, Wesley O'Driscoll, Ted Kerr, Zach Ayotte, Paul Erdmer, Sarah Patterson, and Jay Moore.

Doors @ 8:00pm, No cover, All ages

FRI
JULY 9

Indio Saravanjo with Bill Bourne & Scott Cook

Door @ 8:00pm, \$10.00 Cover

WED
JULY 14

Lily Fawn with guests

Door @ 9:00pm, \$9.00 in advance, \$12 at door

FRI
JULY 16

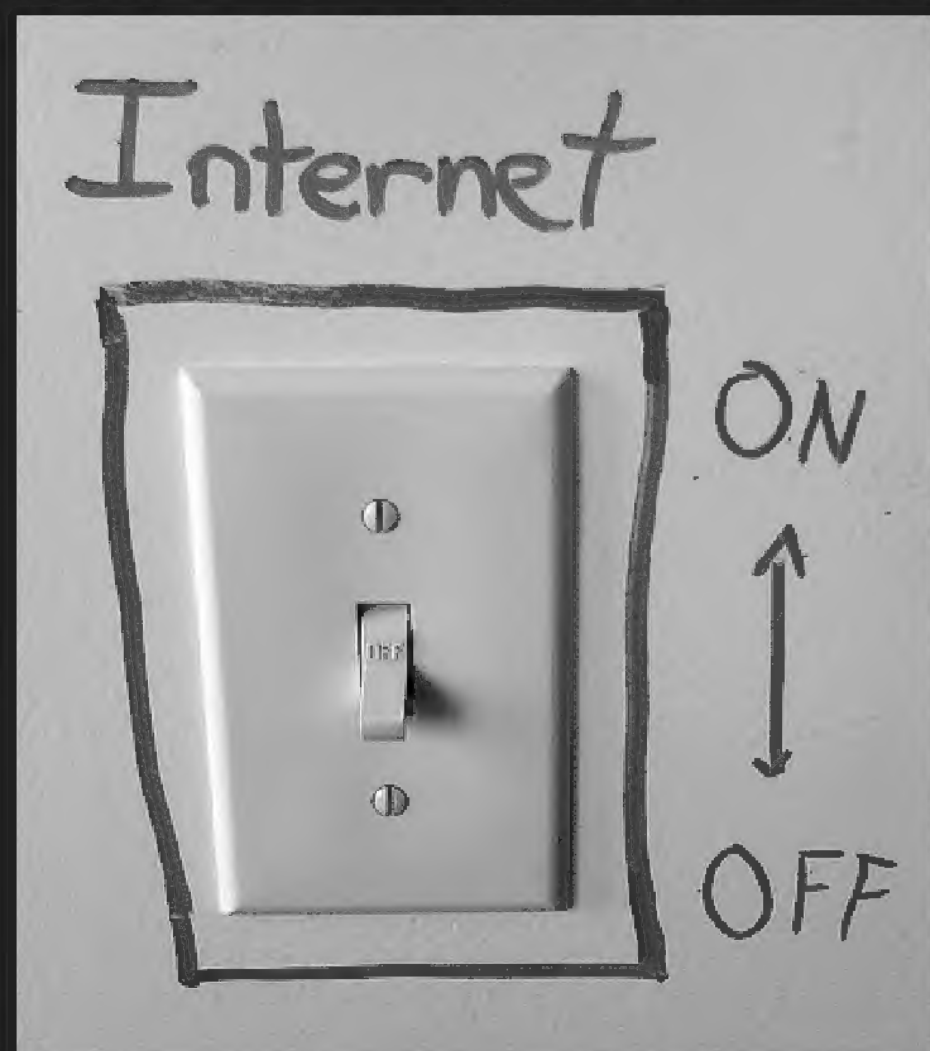
MorLove, plus poetry by RadaR

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JULY 21

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAN MCKECHNIE

DOES THIS DONUT MAKE ME LOOK FAT? A lack of healthy food options on campus leave some students unsatisfied.

Fatty foods don't love your heart

DANNY GUO



University students are getting fat. That's right — *really* fat, but not necessarily in ways that are apparent to the eyes. We aren't getting fat on the outside, but instead on the inside, in our veins and arteries, where Tuesday night's wings and Tim Horton's soft, fluffy pastry rings of death conglomerate into ticking time bombs.

Heart disease — or, more technically accurate, cardiovascular disease — is the number one cause of death worldwide, beating out smoking, diabetes, and cancer. Ironically, it's also the most rigorously ignored pandemic among university students. The reason we automatically dismiss this lethal problem as irrelevant, and continue on with our lives as if it's not an issue, is a simple one — we're completely oblivious, or dismiss the issue of heart health as one that's not a concern for those in our age-range. Most of us probably don't know anyone on campus who actually suffers from some form of cardiovascular disease.

It's true that problems like heart attack, hypertension, and stroke don't typically occur until later in life, well beyond our university years. However, this doesn't mean that our current bad habits won't increase the chance of getting heart disease in the future.

In fact, many of your daily activities directly contribute to having a healthy heart, such as where you choose to eat. Every time you go to a vending machine, or a fast food burger joint, you're essentially drilling a small hole in the boat keeping you afloat on the sea of cardiovascular disease.

This isn't to say that university students are necessarily the ones at fault. In this case, we're not entirely responsible for our poor choices. A study of the meal costs at the University of Alberta published by the *Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research* in 2006 suggested that the average monthly cost for a male student consuming an 'adequate' amount of food prepared from ingredients purchased from grocery stores close to the university campus was \$296.44. Subsequently, the Canadian Student Loans Program offered a maximum of \$196 for food each month. Suddenly, whatever is cheap and filling becomes the prime meal choice — especially with the constant increases in tuition.

The same study also showed that if a student purchased the exact same food items from grocery stores farther from campus, it only cost \$213.28; however, for many of us, getting to discount grocery stores is an incredible hassle. What few healthy food options that do exist on or near campus are horribly overpriced. As luck would have it, even the comparatively cheap prices of 'unhealthy' foods on campus are a rip-off — campus outlets of popular fast-food chains consistently charge more than their off-campus counterparts.

Putting price aside, between work

and school, many university students simply don't have the time to prepare all the necessary meals. To make a healthy meal at home, students actually have to be at home to cook, which isn't a possibility for many of us when we're knee-deep in exams and essays. It's just so much easier to grab a Chubby Chicken sandwich from A&W. Of course we opt for something simple and satiating — and high in fat and salt — when neither time nor money permits us to do otherwise.

Clearly, the problem of poor dietary choices doesn't stem only from price and convenience, and it likely won't be solved only by educating students on healthy eating or advocating for better food choices. However, these are good first steps towards improving the overall health of students across campus, and an essential part of any expanded program to improve dietary habits.

The University should take their goal of promoting student wellbeing seriously. It's time for students of the university to work together with groups like the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association to lobby the University for a wider range of healthy food options available on campus for reasonable prices. By introducing a subsidy program to reimburse students who opt for meals that aren't deep-fried or filled with sugar — which could reduce the cost of certain food items — the university could help fill the void in our wallets left when we aim for a balanced menu. We need to move towards a better university niche, where healthy food choices are made more available and affordable for us all.

THE MARBLE PEDESTAL

The Associated Press created a furor on the internet some months ago when they attempted to charge licensing fees for quotes from their articles. Quite rightly, bloggers and writers in the traditional media were outraged. But the AP's move would come back to bite them in the ass.

The announcement came down last week that Woot, the popular consumer-

deals website, was being purchased by Amazon. This was announced to Woot's staff and the world through a hilarious letter from management. As these things do, the letter made the rounds on blogs and news sites, including the AP.

So Woot sent them an invoice. The company billed the AP \$17.50, a number determined by the rates the AP themselves were trying to claim for quotes.

In the letter they sent to AP, Woot wrote, "Just to be fair about this, we've used your very own pricing scheme to calculate how much you owe us. By [...] comparing your post with our original letter, we've figured you owe us roughly

\$17.50 for the content you borrowed from our blog post, which, by the way, we worked very hard to create."

Major props to Woot for having a sense of humour about what is, in fact, a seriously worrying — and seriously silly — policy on the AP's part. As a reward, they've been elevated to the Marble Pedestal.

DAN MCKECHNIE

The Marble Pedestal is a feature where a person or group who does something particularly awesome is elevated to a pedestal of prose and praised.



Let's try that again: OK Go more than just one-shot wonders

musicpreview

OK Go

With Guests

Friday, July 9 at 8 p.m.

Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)

\$19.50 at Blackbyrd,

Unionevents.com, and Ticketmaster

DAVID JOHNSTON

Arts & Entertainment Staff

The dancing-on-treadmills music video for "Here It Goes Again" took 17 takes. The enormous Rube Goldberg machine featured in "This Too Shall Pass" had an astonishing 89 takes before it fully worked. Their latest video, a time-lapse experiment for the song "End Love," only needed two takes, but each was 21 hours in length, condensed to four and a half minutes of footage. It's pretty safe to say that the brains behind OK Go are not content to play it safe when it comes to cinematography.

"It's always interesting with these videos; each video is always a challenge unto itself, and there's always a new and interesting set of challenges and requirements," says bassist Tim Nordwind. "The constant thing is that they're all one take in their own ways, but how we get from the beginning to the end is always very different." Not surprising, given that with the breadth of ideas and creativity demonstrated by the American polymath band, they

have yet to repeat any of their video concepts.

Nordwind was briefly at home in Los Angeles before heading out with the band on a European tour, though they'll be stopping briefly to play a couple shows in Canada — and oh yes, quickly shoot yet another one-take video, running an epic 10 days outside of Portland, Oregon. The details are strictly under wraps, but Nordwind promises that the band is once again exploring choreography and movement (and, given the shooting schedule, presumably time-lapse technology).

"Synchronized *anything* is sort of infinitely entertaining to me," Nordwind laughs. "It's weird; if you put two paperclips standing up, moving left and right together, it's automatically entertaining. So exploring that basic idea has proven to be a source of happiness and creativity for us. It's the gift that keeps on giving, as far as creative inspiration goes."

The "End Love" video is certainly no exception; unfolding at varying speeds in L.A.'s Echo Park, a nearly day-long marathon comprised of elaborate shooting and choreography, complete with a sleeping bag montage, dancing picnickers, and a surprisingly fame-hungry goose named Orange Bill.

"We would throw food into the water in the hopes that it would forget about us, but it would eat the food and come right back," Nordwind says. "And at some point we realized 'I don't think there's anything we can do about

it; I think this goose is in the video now.'" Happy accidents like that, he admits, are why the band continues to pursue one-take videos as their signature style.

"The crowd was flipping out and [the Silversun Pickups] just thought they were rocking it [...] but I think the crowd was reacting to the fact that I was like a million feet tall on the screen doing a striptease."

TIM NORDWIND
BASSIST, OK GO

"The fun in doing something in one take, and the effect that it gives is that you're watching the real events unfold in front of you. I think there's a certain kind of charm and excitement to that, or at least as far as we're concerned, because a lot of what we do is pretty awesome to see live."

Indeed, with all the imagination and effort that goes into their video productions, it can be easy to forget that OK Go is at its heart a group of musicians doing what they love: creating music. In Nordwind's mind, however, the music completely stands

on its own, and remain as relevant and important to the band as the videos they eventually inspire. "When we're making a record, it's all we think about."

"But it's funny," he continues, "how once we're done with that, our attention turns to videos and the live performance and album art, and then *that* becomes the time-sucking thing for awhile; those things become our obsessions. And they use different parts of our brains, which is great. I'm glad that we can spend a year and a half just recording music and then another year and a half playing the music live and making videos around the music and creating these worlds."

The band has only toured Edmonton once before, in 2007 with Snow Patrol and the Silversun Pickups, but it was an experience to remember.

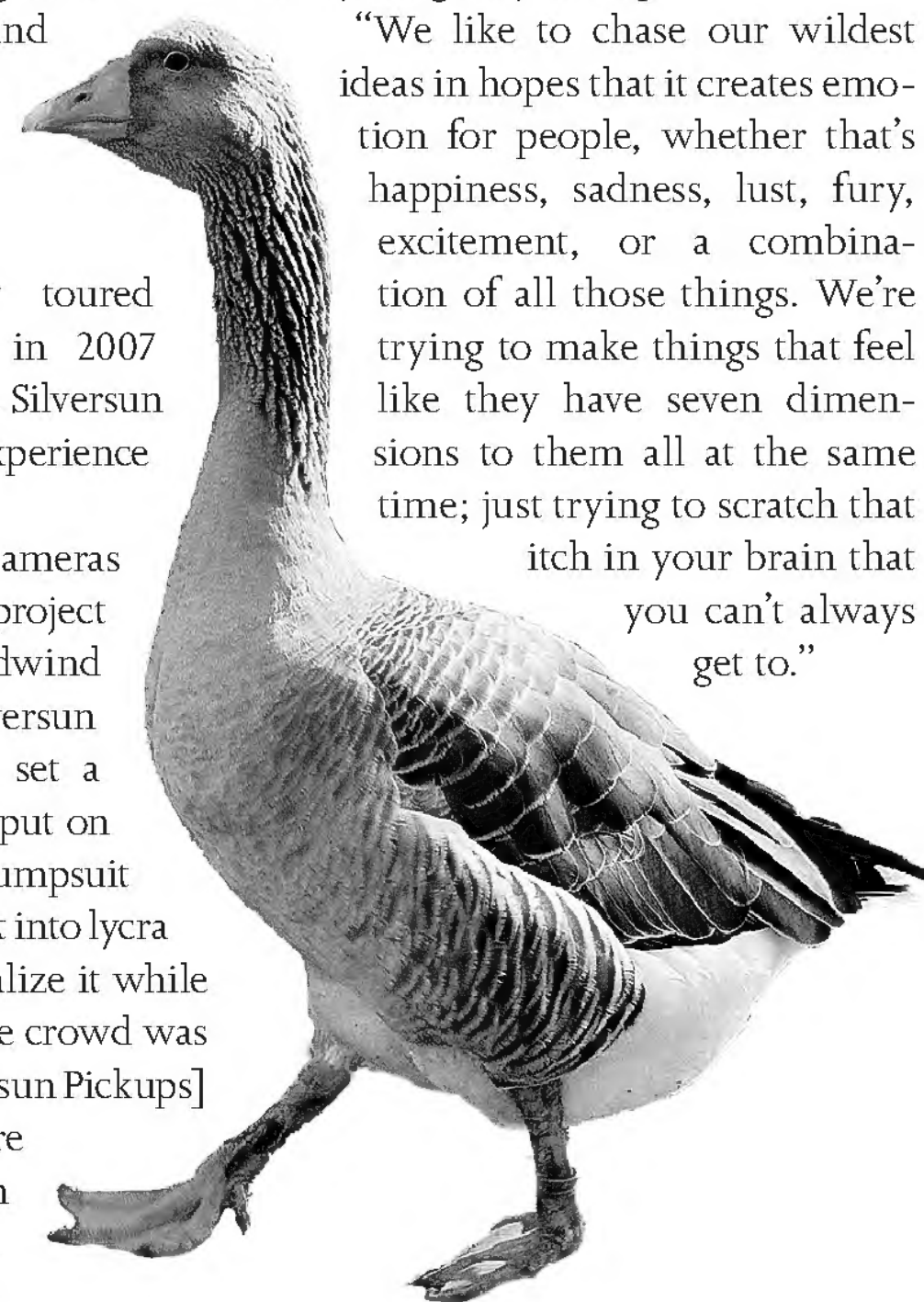
"We [always] have cameras onstage so we're able to project our images onstage," Nordwind recalls. "While the Silversun Pickups were playing, I set a camera up backstage and put on a one-piece Elvis Presley jumpsuit and did a striptease out of it into lycra shorts, and they didn't realize it while they were playing. And the crowd was flipping out and [the Silversun Pickups] just thought they were really rocking it. Which they were, but I think the crowd was just reacting to

the fact that I was like a million feet tall on the screen doing a striptease."

When the band hits the Starlite Room this week, Nordwind admits that they may have outgrown guerilla strip-teases. "I was much younger then," he jokes, "I'm much older, wiser, and less energetic now."

Still, he guarantees there will be surprises, and, if the continual envelope-pushing of the band's storied history promises anything, the show should unfold with the same sense of wonder and creativity that seems to go into everything they attempt.

"We like to chase our wildest ideas in hopes that it creates emotion for people, whether that's happiness, sadness, lust, fury, excitement, or a combination of all those things. We're trying to make things that feel like they have seven dimensions to them all at the same time; just trying to scratch that itch in your brain that you can't always get to."





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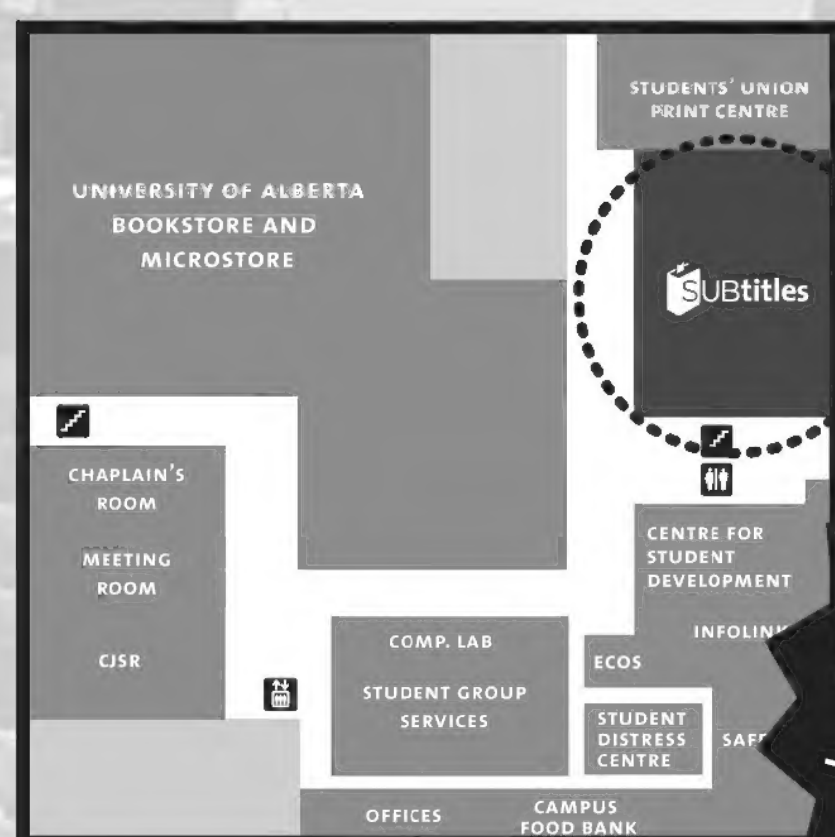
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Despicable Me too cute to be villainous

Illumination Entertainment's debut is so hopelessly adorable it's almost sickening

filmreview

Despicable Me

Directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud

Starring Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, and Will Arnett
Opens Friday, July 9

DAN MCKECHNIE
Photo Editor

I'll admit it — the crowd that gathered in front of the theatre for *Despicable Me* was not the one I expected. It was hard to get a read on this film from the few trailers I'd seen, so the tone and target demographic were a mystery to me. Most of the people lined up for the review screening, however, were young girls and their parents. Were they there under the misconception that this was a children's film, or was I getting the wrong idea in thinking that it wasn't?

The 3D glasses provided should have tipped me off, but there aren't many animated features these days that don't have 3D. *Despicable Me* makes surprisingly effective use of it at least, even working it into a gag that plays over the closing credits to fairly amusing effect. In fact, the strongest part of *Despicable Me* is its sight gags. They're subtle, often zipping by completely unmentioned, woven effectively into the fabric of the scene.

Unfortunately, such praise cannot be shared with the main characters. Steve Carell disguises his voice behind a completely unnecessary Slavic accent as the supervillain protagonist Gru. The character is still funny at turns,

but the accent is superfluous and distracts from Carell's generally strong performance. Gru's minions — little pill-shaped yellow things in overalls — are delightful and demonstrate directors Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud's decisive sense of comedic timing, but ultimately add little to the plot.

Despicable Me's plot is a standard-issue "old grouch learns to love again" story. Miraculously, the inevitable redemption manages to feel reasonably sincere, largely thanks to Carell's performance.

Similarly, Gru's nemesis Vector, whose slick gadgets and audacious heists make Gru look behind the times, is frequently hilarious, but Jason Segel is under-utilized and, again, unrecognizable in the role. Gru adopts three orphan girls and employs them to distract Vector long enough to steal a device that's key to his plan to steal the moon.

These allegedly adorable girls are the weakest part of the cast; Miranda Cosgrove delivers Margo's lines like she's reading ingredients off of a cereal box. This is another example of a vocal talent being cast just to get a known name on the bill, rather than because they're actually comfortable in front of a mic.

This would be less of an issue if

the girls were written more like children and less like sitcom stereotypes of children. Further, Margot tends to spell out exactly what's taking place in whatever scene she's in because the writers evidently don't trust their audience to figure it out on their own.

Despicable Me's plot is a standard-issue "old grouch learns to love again" story, which is fine. These stories deserve to be told as much as any other. Miraculously, the inevitable redemption manages to feel reasonably sincere, largely thanks to Gru's grumbling reluctance to forgo his villainous ways. The film does a good job of balancing the redemption plot with the rivalry with Vector, and it remains tightly woven, at least as far as children's movies go.

Despicable Me is Illumination Entertainment's first feature, and it shows. The animation incorporates numerous sight gags and a tremendous eye for detail, such as the super villain financier Mr. Perkins' (a barely-recognizable Will Arnett) gold-plated laptop and the dozens of unique and colourful minion designs. However, the character designs — aside from Gru and Vector — fall somewhere in the Uncanny Valley, with the children being overtly cutesy and a supporting cast that's downright weird-looking. The main arc of the plot is cohesive, if simplistic, but the allegedly sympathetic adopted girls are frequently annoying.

As a first attempt by Illumination at a children's film, *Despicable Me* is a fair achievement, and bodes well for the company in the future. However, unless you have a little sister to keep amused for an afternoon, don't make a special trip.



featuredalbum

Tokyo Police Club

Champ

Dine Alone Records

GRANT CRAWFORD

Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Nostalgia is wasted on the old" is the most recurrent theme in Tokyo Police Club songs. But before cringing and dismissing the young fogies as overly sentimental and immature, note how *Champ* begins with a one-two combination of "Favourite Food" and "Favourite Colour": celebratory tracks of everyday things.

Champ then proceeds to unfold with an up-tempo pace, with "Wait Up (Boots of Danger)" as a stand-out track that still doesn't stand too far above the rest of the bunch. The songs here are made enjoyable by the wide-eyed youthfulness which flows through them. No, they're not challenging, but they're joyous enough to

be wildly infectious, if nothing else.

If you heard how laboured and undistinguished *Elephant Shell* was, save for a couple of songs, you'll be surprised to hear this band has managed to come forth with a new, seemingly effortless and palatable album. Tokyo Police Club will surprise few with a sound which is essentially a more jittery version of the Strokes, with Dave Monk's incredibly personal and consolatory voice adding a unique touch.

Maybe it's not fair to expect anything from them — after all they're just kids. But you've got your youth too and they've got my vote, so we might as well enjoy it, because you know it's sweet getting old.



albumreview

Pineapple

Pineapple
Independent

MADELINE SMITH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's pretty obvious that Vancouver's Pineapple is still a brand new band in its awkward infancy. Although fronted by the more experienced musician and songwriter Cameron Dilworth, Pineapple, being fairly young, is still frantic to make the message about its musical direction as clear as possible. In this case, it translates into a desperate scream for everyone to notice just how quirky they are.

This starts with the album artwork, which features a do-it-yourself Photoshop job of the band members

sporting ironic hipster moustaches and graphic tees, superimposed on a giant picture of a pixelated grizzly bear, superimposed again on some sort of science-fiction galactic-space-rainbow screensaver. This is possibly intended to be ironically humorous in some way, but it seems more like something one of the band members thought would be totally hilarious while they were baked.

Pineapple's music also continues in the panicky "everybody look at how wacky we can be" vein. Sometimes

this is enjoyable, like on "Happy B-Day 2000X" and "It Doesn't Matter," which both make for very danceable, happy pop tunes, regardless of the weird lyrics. Then, there are songs like "Harvey," with endlessly repeating, bizarre synthesizer melodies that slowly drill a hole through your brain. At least Dilworth provides a bit of distraction from the grating instrumentation as he sings obscure lines like "he's a rabbit / he's your boyfriend / he's a lonely man."

The members of Pineapple seem to be having fun, but their first effort comes off as a little juvenile. The new band's music would be much easier to appreciate if its apparent uniqueness wasn't being crammed down listeners' throats. However, if you can get past the crazy cover art, among other distractions, Pineapple might be worth watching in the future, as they hopefully mature into a more cohesive ensemble.



DANIELLE JENSON

Whorehouse not just naughty fun

theatrepreview

The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas

Directed by Kristen Finlay
Starring Mary E. Stevenson, Dan Fontaine, and David Johnston
July 8-17 at 8 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday (no evening show, and no show on July 12)
Walterdale Playhouse
(10322-83 Ave.)
\$14-18 at TIX on the Square or at the door one hour before showtime

JANNA YING DENG
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Some say that “girls just want to have fun,” but the ladies of the Chicken Ranch whorehouse really just want to survive — though that doesn’t mean their story isn’t hilariously funny as well.

The Walterdale has begun its production of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, an unorthodox show, especially when compared to the Rogers and Hammerstein productions more commonly known to community theatre. But Kristen Finlay, who directed the play on top of her responsibilities as Artistic Director for the Walterdale, hoped to make a fun and witty production with a bit of edge, citing her confidence in her choice of theatre would allow her to best express herself.

“We can get away with something more saucy [...] The Walterdale tends to take different kinds of risks,” says Finlay.

The play is at the very least risqué. There’s a lot of skin to be seen in this musical, which explores the events

surrounding the Chicken Ranch, a whorehouse owned and operated by Miss Mona that’s extremely popular within the show’s titular state. It even has support from Sheriff Ed Earl, along with the local community backing it to the end. That is, until scandal-seeking TV personality Melvin P. Thorpe investigates the Chicken Ranch and demands its closure, prompting embarrassed Texan politicians to begin closing in on the establishment.

Mona’s insistence that “there’s nothing dirty going on” in her business does little to dissuade the media and politicians, leaving her wondering what future is possible for her and the girls when their only means of survival will be taken away from them.

While remaining light at heart, Finlay emphasizes that the play has real depth and complex characters. The love story between the sheriff and Mona creates an “interesting obstacle to see” as their positions in the community do not allow for a relationship.

“Even though it’s about this whorehouse,” Finlay explains, “at its roots it’s a really nice love story [between] Mona and the sheriff. So it’s kind of a sad love story because they’re not a conventional couple; they’re not married but they’re definitely in love and if the circumstances weren’t what they were, they’d be married.”

As the central character, Mona is recognizable as a survivor of unfortunate circumstance. Her surprisingly honest approach to what’s usually considered a dirty trade makes her comparably clean and even a little righteous, especially when compared to the actions of duplicitous politicians who condemn the Chicken Ranch’s immorality while utilizing its services at the same time.

“[Mona] is the only honest one,”

Finlay says. “She has very strict rules in her house. In different circumstances, she would be a CEO of a major corporation. She has that strength. It’s just the circumstances of her life led her to that business, yet she found a way to do it with dignity.”

The *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* has moments of romance, sadness, humour, and deals with “politics and the media — all sorts of interesting things that are still just as valid today as when it was written.” Finlay notes the story’s resonance as a tale of struggle for “survival and surviving in a man’s world” during a time when women were left few choices and opportunities of escape.

“I wanted all the people to be real, though some of the characters verge on cartoonish, like Melvin P. Thorpe. But Mona and the sheriff, we tried to really think of them as real. The girls are not just cartoons [and] sexual beings, but are real women with real problems,” Finlay explains.

The script makes use of the girls as people as Finlay makes sure to stress that “they’re not chorus girls with blank personalities. They each need to be individuals, not clones.” Balancing the wit, adventure, and excitement of the play with the poignant reality of these women’s lives remained a challenge for the story, showing how some of the women have no other choice but to come to the Chicken Ranch in order to escape poverty or sexual abuse.

This Walterdale production will be a “fun event, with lots of laughter, to tell a really honest story — it’s not cheap laughs,” Finlay promises and, with a little sass of her own, cheekily mentions that besides all that, they’ll also have air conditioning for some relief from those hot summer days.



albumreview

Royal Canoe

Co-op Mode
Independent

CAROLINE KUBICKI
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Royal Canoe’s debut album delivers an auditory orgy featuring fist-pumping electro beats, insatiably melodramatic lyrics, and unmistakable teeny-bopper appeal. Hailing from Winnipeg, the five-man indie band was first conceived of in 2006, but it wasn’t until three years later that the band would be reborn, with both new and old band members revisiting old songs, adding their own magic, and

transporting their sound across Canada via a national tour. Their collaboration — hence the title *Co-op Mode* — produced a corny yet likeable pop album featuring 11 whimsical tracks. With lyrics such as “baby I’ve got a whole lot of time for the coochee-coo” sandwiched between falsettos and keyboard punch, it’s unclear whether we should be laughing with the canoe boys or at them.

The album also includes tracks which highlight more serious themes, though not always successfully. “Me Loving Your Money” is a whiny, down-tempo song about a young man’s dependence on his lover’s money, while “Kasparov” depicts a dramatic love affair between chess player Gary Kasparov and his famous supercomputer opponent Deep Blue.

It’s undeniable that the quintet are talented as evidenced by their instrumentation and humour. However, their squeaky prepubescent voices and boyish good looks can’t compensate for their cheesy lyrics and crybaby tantrums. Considering their album artwork implies that the band might be composed exclusively of geriatrics, it’s clear that Royal Canoe still has some growing up to do.



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It's not the size that matters It's how you use it (to attract tourists)

Exploring Alberta's fascination with big things

Words by Evan Daum and Alexandria Eldridge

Photos by Dan McKechnie

Alberta — the Texas of the north, where size matters and the kids with the big toys reign supreme. It's a big province obsessed with big things. Rural communities dot the landscape, all trying to find a "claim to fame" that they can call their own. Something that will make them stand out. Something that will define them.

Tour the Alberta countryside and you'll find that many communities have chosen to differentiate themselves by constructing monuments. With more than 50 large landmarks in Alberta, it can be hard to keep track of them all. Some have become famous throughout the province, such as the 31-foot starship in Vulcan, Alberta, while other landmarks are hidden gems, meant more for the locals to enjoy. But they all have one thing in common — they're big.

Nancy Smith, a spokesperson for Travel Alberta, said that the fascination with massive roadside attractions allows communities to celebrate who they are and share that with the rest of the province.

"I think it's kitschy and kind of cool at the same time. There certainly are a variety of them across Canada, but we've got a good number of them in Alberta. I think it's just intriguing for people," she said.

Smith may be right. According to those who live in the shadow of the behemoths, these captivating landmarks draw tourists from across Canada and even internationally. It seems that no one can resist the opportunity to catch a glimpse — whether it be a skunk in Beiseker or a dinosaur in Drumheller.

Vegreville

A giant Ukrainian Easter egg — or pysanka — is a sight that even royalty can't resist. In 1978, Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Vegreville to sneak a peek at the massive egg.

One of Alberta's most famous monuments, the pysanka weighs 2,000 pounds, stands 31 feet tall, and turns in the wind. It was constructed in 1975 thanks to funding from the Alberta Century Celebrations Committee to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the R.C.M.P.

"The reason behind the choice of an Easter egg is very symbolic. It symbolizes the harmony, vitality, and culture of the community," said Elaine Kucher, general manager of the Vegreville and District Chamber of Commerce.

Ronald Resch from the University of Utah designed the pysanka using computer modelling. The painting and design of the egg was done

traditionally and contains many symbolic meanings. The colours of the egg — bronze, silver, and gold — symbolize prosperity.

Kucher explained that the pysanka brings in many tourists, but is something that some citizens also see as central to their identity.

"Honestly, I think we take it for granted. It's just part of our town. [The pysanka] does bring in tourists from all over the world," she said. "For the older generation, I think it has more cultural meaning because they do know the significance and history behind it."

Kucher added that not all town residents relate to the Ukrainian heritage represented by the egg, but that the pysanka is a physical landmark that the town has grown around and embraced.

"Like any other community, we're multicultural now. It'd be fair to say that not everybody relates to it."



Glendon

To many, Glendon is a town known for one thing — perogies. As a reflection of this, in 1992, the town constructed the greatest perogy of all, a 27-foot-tall, 6,000 pound fiberglass pastry on a fork.

While the perogy is a popular Eastern European food, the choice of the oversized dumpling wasn't meant to isolate people not of Ukrainian descent, but to provide something to draw in tourists.

"If we're off the main road, people forget about us. We're five miles off Highway 28, so we had to figure something out so that people make that turn and come into the village to see us," Mayor Johnnie Doonanco explained. "We had to get something unique

and out-of-the-ordinary so that people would come. So we decided to build a perogy."

According to Doonanco, the perogy has done its job. People visit from all over the world to take pictures in front of the perogy — even wedding photos.

"If it wasn't for [the perogy], we would've been forgotten. There isn't one day that there aren't people taking pictures. You just name the place and [visitors from there] were here," he said.

Farming is the area's most important industry. But in recognition of their famous food, the town of 400 hosts a perogy festival every

year. Complete with dancing and entertainment, the highlight is a perogy-eating contest. The festival draws tourists, as well as the investments they bring with them.

"The tourist dollar is the real dollar. When you go on the holiday, if you want something you're going to buy it," Doonanco said.

But the popularity can sometimes overwhelm the small community. With everyone pinning for a bit of the famous dumpling, supply doesn't always there to match demand and there's times when tourists have to do without.

"The perogy capital of the world and not a perogy? What kind of deal is this?" joked Doonanco.

Donalda

Sporting a population of just over 200, Donalda isn't the largest locale in the province, but it is a bright spot when it comes to larger-than-life attractions thanks to its 15-foot-tall oil lamp.

Built in 2000, the lamp has been crucial to the town's survival, built to attract tourists after two devastating blows to the local economy. The village lost its grain elevators in the late '90s, followed by another major blow when the Canadian National Rail line that went through the village was pulled up.

"At that point, Donalda was in a bit of an economic crisis, because they'd had these devastating effects on the

commercial and industrial developments, and no more railroad whatsoever," said Donalda's Chief Administrative Officer Peter Simons.

Left in a tough economic situation, Donalda had to shift their economic base to survive.

"The idea at the time was to follow a path of economic development that focused on rural tourism, and the lamp was kind of built as the centre-piece of that, and I think it also tied in nicely with the millennium celebrations," Simons noted.

For a village that had been previously defined by its ties to the iconic symbols of prairie life, constructing a giant lamp also had significant meaning to Donalda.

The Donalda and District Museum is home to over 900 lamps, many

of which were donated by the local Lawson family in the late '70s. Those donated lamps formed the foundation for the museum and also helped Donalda gain its moniker as Canada's Lamp Capital.

"When the giant lamp was built, there was already an active lamp museum, which basically —although we can't prove this — is presumed to be the largest collection of oil lamps in the world. That museum is the focal point that draws people to the village, and the giant lamp was seen as an add-on to that," Simons explained.

While the lamp has helped draw tourists to the museum and village as a whole, the structure faced early skepticism.

"I think there certainly was some debate when they wanted to build it. There was a little bit of opposi-



tion, because some people at the time thought that a different approach should be taken towards economic development, but it certainly has died off over the years and it would be a

very small minority today." Even though there were those who may have thought the lamp wasn't the best idea a decade ago, the majority of them have seen the light.

Beaverlodge

There's nothing quite like a giant, 3,000 pound rodent to cause a scene. At least that's what the folks of Beaverlodge would hope. The town is home to the world's largest beaver, which stands 15 feet tall and spans a length of 28 feet. The enormous sculpture draws tourists to the small town lying 30 kilometres west of Grande Prairie.

Originally the brainchild of local businessman Al Lojczyc, who owned the Beaverlodge Motor Inn, the giant beaver was erected in 2007 to celebrate the community's 75th anniversary of being incorporated as a town — and to give Beaverlodge something unique to attract tourists. So far the beaver has done its job, becoming a must-see novelty for roadside attraction enthusiasts in the province.

"We do see that there are people that stay in our campgrounds and shop at the local stores because of the beaver. They come to have their



picture taken with the beaver, and they look for souvenirs or memorabilia as well," explained Beaverlodge's

Chief Administrative Officer Chris King. "You pretty much can't drive past it without seeing someone — fam-

ilies or individuals — taking photos of it."

With the town recently revamping their logo from a beaver to a mountain landscape, the beloved beaver could have been forced to take a backseat to the scenic view. But the beaver's fans remain loyal.

"People are pretty proud of the beaver," King explained. "We've kept the beaver for our parades, [as the] temporary tattoos we give out to kids, and we still have the beaver mascot. We haven't given up on the beaver entirely even though we've changed the logo slightly."

Of course, the giant beaver isn't the only beaver that calls the Beaverlodge area home, with rodents of a smaller, more lively variety also inhabiting the area.

"The Beaverlodge River is right beside town here, and there are beaver dams running up and down the river," King said.

Honourable Mentions

Mundare - World's Largest Sausage

Nothing says small-town pride like a giant 42-foot-tall sausage glistening under the prairie sky. Erected in 2001, the Ukrainian sausage in Mundare is a tribute to the Stawnychy's Meat Processing factory, which has put the town on the map with its kobasa. Cravings will ensue after you lay eyes on Mundare's sausage, so be prepared for a stop at Stawnychy's to satisfy your bratwurst needs.



Vulcan - Giant Star Ship

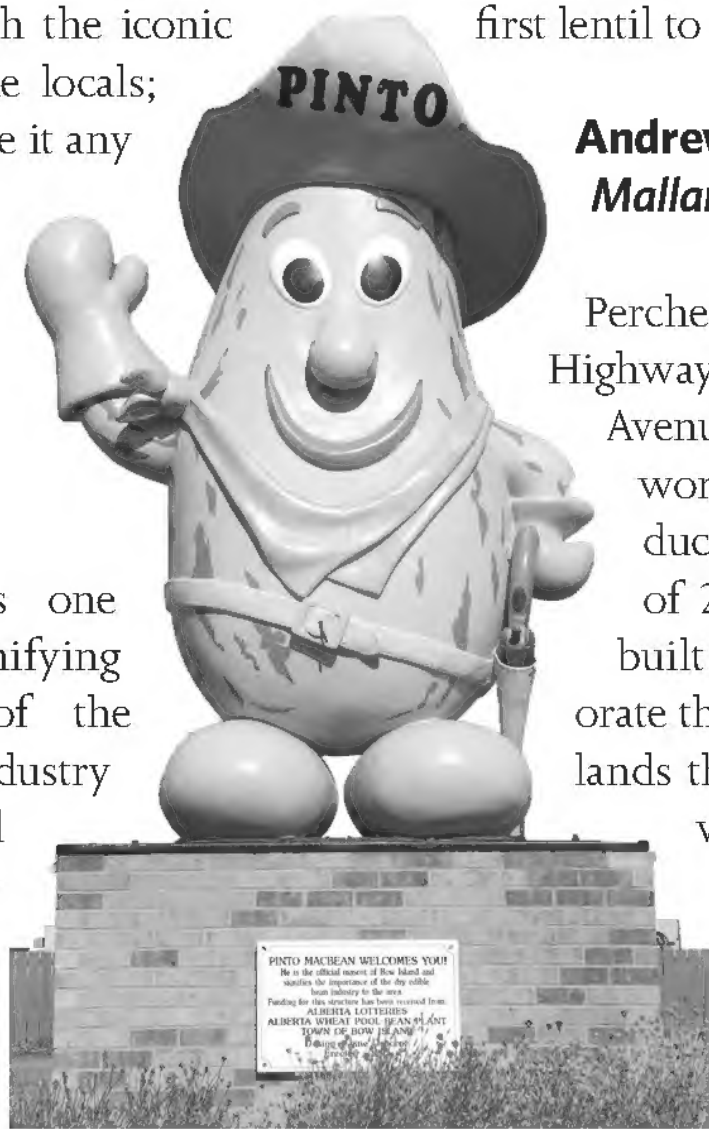
Trekkies, engage! It's time you get your sci-fi tails down to Vulcan

to see the official *Star Trek* capital of Canada and its 31-foot-long Star Ship FX6-1995-A. An important part of

Vulcan's shift to a tourism-based economy beginning in the late '80s, the gigantic model ship goes along with many other *Star Trek*-based attractions in the town of 1,940 people. So if you're ever in Vulcan, make sure you're ready to flash the iconic Vulcan salute to the locals; Spock wouldn't have it any other way.

Bow Island - Pinto MacBean, the Giant Pinto Bean

Pinto MacBean is one tough bean. Signifying the importance of the dry edible bean industry to the Bow Island area, Pinto was constructed in 1992 and proudly stands 18 feet tall. Pinto may look



Andrew - World's Largest Mallard Duck

Perched at the corner of Highway 855 and Ed Stelmach Avenue in Andrew sits the world's largest mallard duck. With a wingspan of 23 feet, the duck was built in 1992 to commemorate the Whitford Lake wetlands that lie just east of the village. No oversized bread crumb would be safe from the ferocious bill of this monstrous waterfowl.

Ice Bears announce roster for upcoming season

EVAN DAUM
Sports Staff

It may only be July, but preparation for the upcoming hockey season rages on as the mercury rises. After a disappointing finish to the 2009/10 season with a heartbreaking overtime loss to Saint Mary's in the national final, Golden Bears head coach Eric Thurston has wasted no time getting ready for the upcoming season with an impressive recruiting class.

Thurston's recruiting class — which currently stands at nine — is headlined by a pair of goaltenders with ex-WHLers Kurtis Mucha and Linden Rowat both committed to wearing the Green and Gold this fall.

"He's a Sherwood Park boy, and he's been to the Edmonton Oilers camp. We think he has some real upside," Thurston said of Mucha, who is the WHL's all-time leader in both games played, with 245, and minutes played, with 13,708.

Mucha spent the majority of his junior career with the Portland Winterhawks before being traded early last season to the Kamloops Blazers, where he posted a 14-11-0-4 record.

Along with Mucha, Rowat comes to the Bears with a terrific pedigree after a five-year career in the WHL, including a career year in 2007/08 where the Cochrane, Alberta product posted a 33-win campaign.

"Linden [Rowat] is a draft choice of the Los Angeles Kings, and has been to their camp. He played with Lethbridge last year, and he's a big, tall, lanky kid that has got real potential," Thurston said of Rowat, who was picked 124th overall by the Kings in the 2007 NHL Entry Draft.

Both goaltenders will have an opportunity to play this season with the departure of Travis Yonkman, who spent only one season with the Bears.

Yonkman split the majority of last season with Real Cyr in net. But with Cyr battling a hernia injury, Mucha and Rowat will both have an opportunity to see plenty of ice in their rookie



PETE YEE

TAKING CHARGE Derek Ryan and the 2010 rookie recruiting class are looking to help the Golden Bears this year on their road to the National Championships

seasons with the Ice Bears

Up front, Alberta has added a quartet of players, with Mitch Czibere from the Dauphin Kings of the Manitoba Junior League, Lindsay Nielsen from Seattle, Matt Merapoulis from Chilliwack, and Tri-City American Johnny Lazo.

Lazo had a big season for the Amerks last year, posting 39 goals during campaign, and will be expected to step in and take on a top-six forward role.

"John put up 39 goals, and a lot of them were in the real tough areas to score. He works well along the boards, and has great speed, so he's a real nice addition," Thurston pointed out. "He's going to play with some good guys, and I know that's going to make him a good player too."

The Bears will also be adding some experienced leadership to the mix with the additions of Nielsen up front and Jarrett Toll from Tri-City

on defence — both were the captains on their respective WHL clubs last season.

Another major addition to the team will be that of defenceman Ben Lindemulder, who red-shirted with the team a season ago. A transfer student from Northern Michigan, the Fort Saskatchewan native will be a key component of what should be a very strong defence core.

"I think he can be one of the top

defenceman in the league," Thurston said. "He's going to be a guy that's going to play a lot of minutes, and I think that our strength is going to be on the defence."

With the additions of Toll, Lindemulder, and former WHLers Drew Nichol and Jesse Craig complimenting an already-strong returning group of Alberta defenders, the Bears will lean on their strong defence core this season.

Field Pandas select Sloboda as third head coach in three years

MATT HIRJI
Sports Editor

When the Pandas field hockey squad take their sticks to Foote Field for the upcoming season, the team will be led by a new head coach — the third to fill the position in as many years for the team.

University of Alberta graduate Stefanie Sloboda is taking over the position from A.J. Fecendi, who led the team to a silver medal at the national championships last season.

While the Pandas have experienced a lot of transition in recent years since seven-year coach Carla Duncan went on a leave of absence, Stefanie Sloboda is only the fourth manager since field hockey guru Dr. Dru Marshall took the whistle in 1981.

Despite the adjustments at the helm, Acting Director of Athletics Vang Ioannides is happy about the future of the team under Sloboda. A former University of Alberta student-athlete, she served after graduation as both an assistant coach for the

Pandas and head coach for the U-18 provincial Alberta field hockey team.

"We are excited to land somebody of her caliber. We feel like she can play a role in the development of the sport," Ioannides said. "Stefanie was a fantastic player with the Pandas during her time. She was the MVP of the team for a couple years as well as an All-Canadian on a couple of occasions."

Sloboda, who has been an assistant coach with the Pandas for two sea-

sons, will take the reins of a team she has been apart of since joining as a player in 2000.

"I am excited to implement some slight changes to the program with my own style of coaching while keeping a strong emphasis on tradition," Sloboda said. "It is really quite an honour for me to take over a program that I have been a part of as both an athlete and an assistant coach. I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead in a different role."

Sloboda said she hopes to draw upon her experience as a player — having been coached by both Duncan and Marshall — to encourage her team's success during this upcoming season.

"It's definitely a bonus to have been coached by two of the coaches that have certainly built the program in the last several years," said Sloboda. "The coach I am today is certainly a reflection of both [their] coaching styles."

Stability has been a concern for the Field-Pandas during the past few years during Duncan's leave. However, Ioannides asserts that the appointment of Sloboda maintains a sense of continuity in the program — something that's important for the future success of the team and to ensure the continued personal growth of the student-athletes on the field hockey squad.

"[Continuity] was a huge concern for us. Basically, if you came into the program two years ago, you are going into your third head coach in three seasons. However, the reaction was positive in our meeting with the players," Ioannides said. "The one really key thing is that the team has promoted their coaches within the program. Stefanie as been actively involved has both an assistant coach and recruiter for the team. All of the players that the Pandas have been recruiting recently feel comfortable with Stefanie. We see lots of continuity there."

BY THE NUMBERS

10

Number of years that Stefanie Sloboda has been affiliated with the Pandas field hockey team.

3

Head coaches that have taken the whistle for the Pandas since the 2008 season.

1

Number of National Championships that the Field Pandas have won since the team was formed in 1975

Bzzz! The great World Cup vuvuzela debate rages on

South African horns highlight the lighter side of the great game



ALIX
KEMP

point

There's no better — or more divisive — symbol of World Cup fervour in South Africa than the notorious vuvuzela. A South African teenager was allegedly shot by a neighbour for blowing a vuvuzela in their yard recently, while Spain has banned the instruments from their annual running of the bulls. However, demands to outlaw the popular instrument at the beginning of the World Cup were dismissed by FIFA, and rightly so.

The vuvuzela is an essential part of the South African soccer experience — fans travelling to South Africa, and those watching the games on TV, should expect the full experience from the tournament's host country. According to popular folklore, the plastic instrument was originally inspired by the kudu horn and was once used to summon people to village gatherings. Over the past 15 years, the instrument has become a prominent symbol of unity and celebration for many South African soccer fans.

Viewers at home should think twice before supporting bans of the instrument, no matter how irritating we may find the incessant buzzing when we tune in to World Cup games. Canadian sports have their own long history of strange habits. From the infamous green men of Vancouver, to our tendency to throw

hats, rubber bats, and dead octopi onto the ice, Canadian hockey traditions can be odd irritating, and downright bizarre. We'd react poorly to any attempt to ban our traditions from playoff games or the Olympics; we're thus in no position to criticize the sports traditions of other countries.

Besides the traditional aspects of the vuvuzela, the device has spawned a vast array of hilarious YouTube videos, internet memes, multiple iPhone apps, and a variety of other amusing pop culture offsprings.

The vuvuzela is an essential part of the South African soccer experience.

As annoying as we might find the plastic instrument, we can still enjoy Gandalf fighting off the hordes of vuvuzela-toting fans, and the assortment of silly, photoshopped images involving cats and Sarah Palin that have proliferated all over the web. If nothing else, we can take perverse pleasure in infuriating the people we hate by constantly harassing them with the vuvuzela sounds we've downloaded onto our phones.

Like it or not, vuvuzelas have reached the world stage, and it's quite likely we'll now see them introduced at a variety of sporting events here at home — for instance, at Canadian football games. We might as well get used to the buzzing, and find whatever way we can to appreciate the instrument's dubious charms. It's going to be a while before we hear the end of them.

The loud drones of horns has muted the spirit of the tournament



NATHANIEL
BRENNIS

counterpoint

One need only endure thirty seconds of this year's World Cup before beginning to wonder whether a Biblical swarm of insects is about to devour everyone on the field. Don't worry — the world's beloved soccer stars are in no immediate danger. That wince inducing bellow is just the sound of a 60,000-strong vuvuzela orchestra.

Jubilant fans coming together in song to support their side is one of the greatest and longest-standing of soccer traditions. From the smallest third-division club to the national teams, soccer fans are always inventing new cheers and hymns.

Without question, the vuvuzela horns are a symbol of soccer in South Africa and are a quintessential part of the nation's culture. The problem is that the vuvuzelas are also quintessentially obnoxious.

Like an ailing hostage suffering from Stockholm Syndrome, I have slowly come to associate the incessant drone with the excitement of high-calibre soccer. Despite this, vuvuzelas are bad for the game. They're a danger to the players' health and to the atmosphere of the World Cup. The intensity of the vuvuzelas call can reach as high as 127 decibels and exposure over an extended period of time

can cause noise-induced hearing loss.

Prior to this year's World Cup, players, coaches, and officials alike expressed their concerns over these maddening instruments. "I think they should be banned," said Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso. "They make it very difficult for the players to communicate with each other and to concentrate. They are a distraction and do nothing for the atmosphere."

Vuvuzelas are bad for the game — they are a danger to the players' health and to the atmosphere of the World Cup.

When world class footballers are unable to play to their best abilities on the highest stage, it detracts from the sport that billions of fans love. This inability to communicate was clearly evident as recently as the Netherlands-Brazil quarterfinal. There it became apparent that the players were having difficulty hearing even the official's whistle, not to mention instructions from their coach and fellow teammates.

"[The vuvuzela] kills one of the charms of football — the songs," said Arsene Wenger, manager of the English Premier League Club Arsenal.

At this year's World Cup, the vuvuzelas have drowned out even the loudest of vocal supporters and muted some of the magic of this years World Cup tournament — a disappointment for all fans who truly love the game and want to enjoy watching it.

Gateway Sports Podcast: Look for our Special World Cup round up episode this upcoming Monday.

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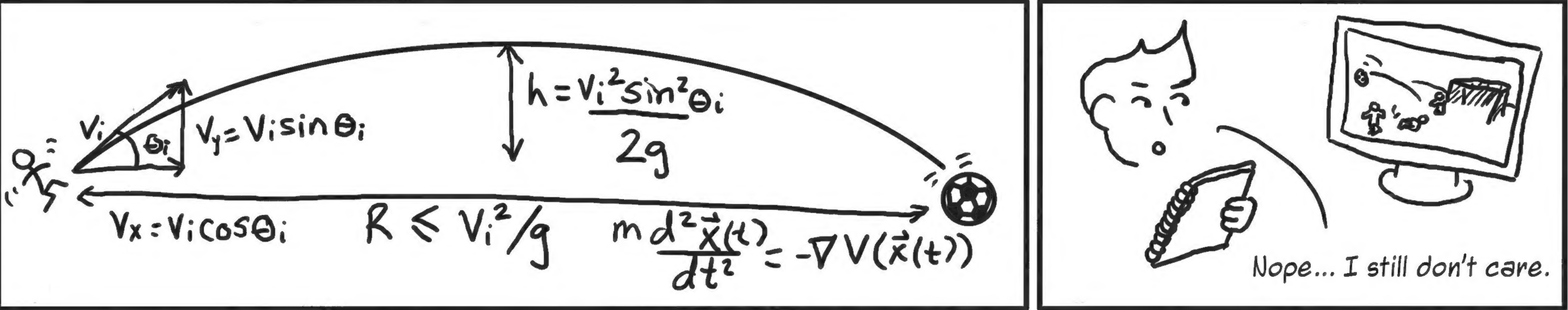
BONELESS

THURSDAYS

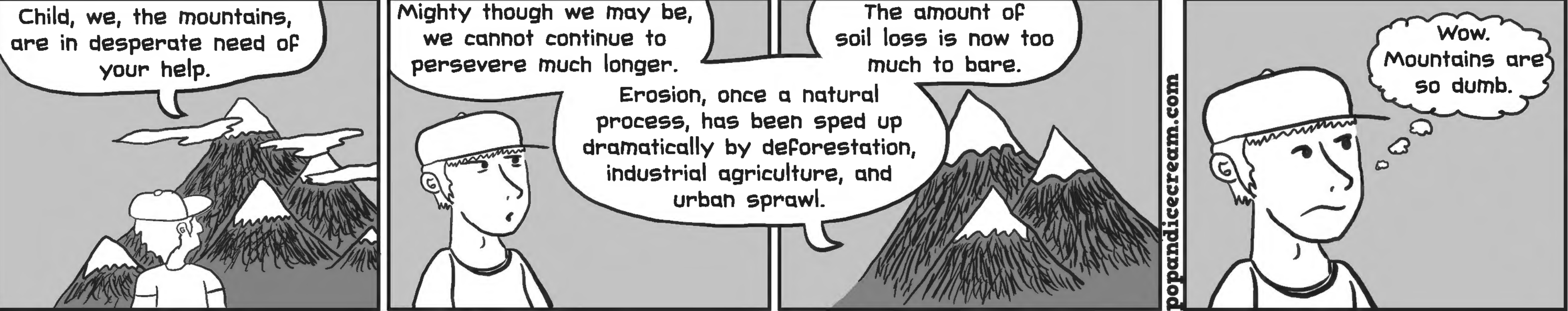
Sign up to compete in the qualifying rounds between 8 and 9PM. Contest at 9:30PM. Limited space is available.

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DAMN, THAT'S HOT! Mary Swain demonstrates Japanese Raku pottery techniques at The Works Art and Design Festival in Churchill Square. Raku pottery is characterized by simple, handworked pieces.